

Poland and the Dawn of the Right to Education and Development: Moving Back in Time

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Abstract : The terror of women throughout the governance of the current populist ruling party in Poland, PiS, has been a subject of a heated debate alongside the issues of minorities' rights, the rule of law, and democracy in the country. The challenges that women and other vulnerable groups are currently facing, however, come down to more than just a lack of comprehensive equality laws, severely limited reproductive rights, hateful slogans, and messages propagated by the central authority and its sympathisers, or a common disregard for women's fundamental rights. Many sources and media reports are available only in Polish, while international rapporteurs fail to acknowledge the whole picture of the tragedy happening in the country and the variety of factors affecting it. Starting with the authorities' and Polish catholic church's propaganda concerning CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by spreading strategic disinformation that it codifies 'gender ideology' and 'anti-Christian values' in order to convince the electorate that the legal instruments should be 'abandoned'. Alongside severely restricted abortion rights, bullying medical professionals helping women exercise their reproductive rights, violating women's privacy by introducing a mandatory registry of pregnancies (so that one's pregnancy or its 'loss' can be tracked and traced), restricting access to the 'day after pill' and real sex education at schools (most schools have a subject of 'knowledge of living in a family'), introducing prison punishment for teachers accused of spreading 'sex education', and many other, the current tyrant government, has now decided to target the youngest with its misinformation and indoctrination, via strategically designed textbooks and curriculum. Biology books have seen a big restriction on the size of the chapters devoted to evolution, reproductive system, and sexual health. Approved religion books (which are taught 2-3 times a week as compared to 1 a week sciences) now cover false information about Darwin's theory and arguments 'against it'. Most recently, however, the public spoke up against the absurd messages contained in the politically rewritten history books, where the material about some figures not liked by the governing party has already been manipulated. In the recently approved changes to the history textbook, one can find a variety of strongly biased and politically-charged views representative of the conservatives in the states, most notably, equating the 'gender ideology' and feminism with Nazism. Thus, this work, by employing a human rights approach, would focus on the right to education and development as well as the considerable obstacles to access to scientific information by the youth.

Keywords : Poland, right to education, right to development, authoritarianism, access to information

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