Association against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia

Public benefit organization

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Payments to J.J. Lipski Competition Award Fund should have “J.J. Lipski competition” written as the title of payment

PUBLICATIONS

www.otwarta.org

• Jan Józef Lipski Two homelands, two patriotism. Comments on Poles’ national megalomania and xenophobia, Warszawa 2011

• Offence was not stated, Prosecutors’ attitude toward information on anti-Semitic publications, Warszawa 2006 (out of print)

Series “Documents”:

• March 68. Speeches from the session held at the Warsaw University in 1983, Warszawa 2008

Series “Debates”:

• Extreme organizations in a democratic state and society. Materials from debates and expert recommendations, Warszawa 2013


Series “Reports”:

• Extreme organizations in a democratic state and society 2012-2013 (a set of 16 publications), Warszawa 2013

• Society against hate, Report 2011/2012 (a set of 6 publications), Warszawa 2013

• Society against hate, Report 2010/2011 (a set of 6 publications), Warszawa 2011

• Law against hate, Report 2006/2009 (a set of 6 publications), Warszawa 2010

• For tolerance, Report on OR activities in 2007, Warszawa 2007

Educational materials:

• A guidebook for the coach and teacher. How to learn tolerance? (Report 2011/2012), Warszawa 2013

• Workshops for tolerance. Materials for students, Warszawa 2012


Literature:

• Michał Głowiński Black Hour (a chapter from Black seasons), Warszawa 2011 (out of print)

• Franck Pavloff Brown Morning, translated by Barbara Chęcińska, Warszawa 2011 (out of print)

• Albert Cohen To You I Call, Man Brothers, translated by Anna Sochowa, 2007

Films (DVD):

• History of dialog. Oral stories of Polish multi-culture (published with Museum of Polish History under “Patriotism of Tomorrow” program), Warszawa 2014

• Film Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising according to Marek Edelman (with a lesson scenario), Warszawa 2007

We want to live in a society free from prejudice, respecting otherness, and defending human dignity

Join us!
Open Republic - Association against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia

We document manifestations of ethnic, religious, and racial prejudice and we bring them to the attention of the public opinion, state administration, media, churches, and social, scientific and cultural associations;

we initiate educational actions countering dissemination of stereotypes against “aliens” and prejudice relating to national, ethnic, and religious differences, and support dissemination of knowledge on multi-ethnic sources of Polish culture;

we document manifestations of ethnic, religious, and racial prejudice and we bring them to the attention of the public opinion, state administration, media, churches, and social, scientific and cultural associations;

in the cases of public inciting for hatred, offence or discrimination motivated by the national, ethnic, race or religious (or non-religious) identity, sex/gender, sexual orientation or disability we take intervention steps, i.e. we publish statements and appeals, initiate protests, and take legal steps;

we promote our goals and ideals by organizing open meetings, lectures, and discussions, publishing our publications and by initiating discussions in the media (www.otwarta.org/en);

we bring to the attention of representatives of judicial authorities, state administration, and public opinion the need of observance by Poland of the international conventions imposing persecuting of manifestations of racism, xenophobia, and other types of discrimination;

we document, publicize and support civic initiatives for tolerance and we cooperate with the institutions and associations which realize similar goals.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The goal of the project implemented in cooperation with Klamra Foundation is promoting the idea of tolerance and streamlining activities aimed at countering all forms of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and other attitudes violating human dignity. Our Association runs portal www.zgłosieniawisci.otwarta.org which facilitates monitoring of hate speech and hate acts, describing and analyzing particular cases and taking civic and legal interventions. The project is implemented under Citizens for Democracy Program financed by EEA Grants.

The project implemented together with the Museum of Polish History under “Patriotism of tomorrow” program carried out in 3 Warsaw schools included lectures for students on national and ethnic minorities living in Poland and on discrimination and ways of countering it, workshops on film shooting, and making films on selected minorities, which were supposed to combat prejudice and stereotypes on these minorities (Available on YouTube).

Extrem organizations in the democratic state and society (2012-2013)
This project was focused on extreme organizations and movements - their range, form and activity methods in Poland and in the selected European states, their impact on particular groups, especially youth, and on legal aspects of countering their activity. The results of expert debates, seminars and information campaign in the media were presented in the form of a dozen publications.

Law against hate (2011-2012)
We conducted research on effectiveness of the institutions of Polish law and judicial authorities in countering hateful acts and oral manifestations of hate. We recorded acts of hatred and discrimination against representatives of national, ethnic,

religious, cultural, sexual and other minorities and reactions of applicable institutions (police, prosecutor offices, and courts) and local government authorities to these acts.

Anti-discrimination workshops (2010)
Between September and December 2010 we conducted 120 hours of workshops in Warsaw schools, during which students learned what is racial, religious, and cultural orientation oriented discrimination, why one should counteract each manifestation of intolerance and why representatives of different cultures and religions are worth getting familiar with and why they should be respected.

Travel to the unknown. Siekierki Stop (2009)
Help for foreigners’ children staying in the center for those seeking the status of refugee or the asylum located at Warsaw Siekierki district. This help included, without limitation, developing the skills of working in the group and learning Polish through playing.

Together in Europe - Open to Others (2007)
We developed a scenario of educational classes on respect and tolerance between social groups differing in race, ethnic origins, religion and outlook, and a cycle of classes based on these scenarios was conducted in 25 gymnasiums and high schools.

School of openness (2001-2004)
Approximately 180 textbooks available on the market were analyzed by reviewers – for Polish language, history, knowledge about society and educating for family life - from the point of view of respect for ethnic, religious, and general outlook differences – from the point of view of presence of content promoting understanding for minority rights, tolerance, respect for ethnic, religious, outlook and other differences.

Report on hate speech (2001)
Throughout 2001 we recorded anti-Semitic and xenophobic statements in the selected specimens of Polish press. The results were published in the form of report, the book version of which entitled “Instead of a trial. Report on hate speech” by Magdalena Tulli and Siergiej Kowalski was published by W.A.B. publishing house in 2003.

Debate of Open Republic and Polski Theater in Warsaw
Since 2010, our Association together with Arnold Szyfman Polski Theater has organized the open debates on important social issues. The debate starts with a panel discussion by experts, and then the audience takes part in it. Each debate is dedicated to the memory of an outstanding person from the recent Polish history. Subjects of the debates hitherto included threats to democracy, appropriating public space, openness and tolerance of Poles, and the truth and stereotypes on Roma people and Poles. Patrons of debates were: Marek Edelman, Arnold Szyfman, Jan Józef Lipski, Halina Mikolajka, Jackur Kuroń, Maciej Geller, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Krzysztof Kauze and Karol, Pamo’ Ziebiński. The debates, which are held twice a year, can also be watched on OR website.

Jan Józef Lipski Master Thesis Competition
Jan Józef Lipski Master Thesis Competition taking place since 1995 and since 2002 organized by Open Republic Association is meant to commemorate its Patron - literary scholar, literary critic, essayist, journalist, democratic opposition activist and animator of social initiatives - by supporting the gifted students of humanities and social sciences.

The jury composed of the outstanding scholars evaluates master thesis dissertations from academic centers from all over Poland and grants the following awards: the statutory awards of the 1st and 2nd grade and distinctions, as well as special awards. Due to the limited funds their financial level is also limited but they are considered prestigious in the academic circles, constitute a kind of recommendation for the winner in his/her efforts to achieve the scholar status and facilitate publication of texts in scientific magazines.