

Polish Women's Congress



# WOMEN FOR POLAND POLAND FOR WOMEN

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20 Years of Transformation 1989-2009

Warsaw, June 20-21, 2009  
Congress Hall, Palace of Culture and Science

March 2009



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In June 2009, the 20th anniversary of the launch of transformation in Poland will be celebrated. Transformation processes changed not only the country's political and economic system but also its cultural, spiritual and civic image. Over the period of twenty years, Poland has emerged as a modern open country which takes seriously civic freedoms and the principles of justice and equality. In a free country, the rights are evenly distributed between women and men but, as it happens worldwide, their opportunities are not equal. Women are by far more disadvantaged as to their participation in public life, workload or access to positions of power and to prestigious posts. We would like to change this state while at the same time pointing to the track record of great achievements that we have scored in every area of life. We want to highlight what is often forgotten: namely that it is also thanks to us that Poland acquired a status of a free country, a country that counts in Europe and in the world.

This is why we, Polish women, wish to mark this anniversary which is important to Poland and Europe alike, by holding an All-Polish Congress during which we shall take stock of our contribution to the transformation of Poland's system and shall map out strategic objectives for our future activities.

The Congress "Women for Poland, Poland for women" is meant to be a celebration time for women, going beyond any partisan, political and professional divisions. It will be an encounter of female employers, politicians, activists of local governments, employees, NGO representatives, feminists, scholars, trade unionists. Also prominent figures from the world of politics, economy, ecology, culture, etc. will attend.



## **Program Board:**

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## **I. Organizer:**

Polish Women's Congress Executive Office

Public initiative with the participation of: Civic Women's Forum, Feminoteka, Club 22, Women's Party, Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan.

## **II. Participants:**

Women from all Poland. NGO's, political parties, trade unions, employers' organizations.

## **III. Conference objectives:**

- **Substantive objective:** taking stock of the output and achievements made by women, an analysis of women's situation in all areas of public life.
- **Promotional objective:** mainstreaming women's problems into public debate, highlighting women's postulates and expectations in the societal and political context (elections).
- **Integration objective:** integration of women's milieus and organizations, creating a platform: an a-political lobby with a view to activate women. Setting up a Civic Women's Forum. Enhancing women's solidarity.
- **Political objective:** Systematic mainstreaming of gender equality and emancipation postulates into the political agenda. Manifesto of the Civic Women's Forum. Introduction of the principle of a parity participation in politics (parties, Parliament, local governments) and public administration.
- **Social objective:** Setting up a fund to support women standing in elections to local governments, to the Parliament and European elections.



## IV. Project components:

- 1. Regional conferences** in cities, where it will be feasible without incurring additional costs – operating under the auspices of NGO's, political parties and the academia. The object of such conferences is to secure women's integration on the local level and to present the objectives and the idea underlying June's Congress.
- 2. Drafting reports** in the following areas: 1) women's political activity, (2) women in local governments and NGOs, (3) in business, (4) on the labor markets, (5) women's health, (6) women and violence, (7) women in science and education, (8) house work, (9) women in culture. Reports will be drawn up in the Polish and English versions.
- 3. All-Polish Conference (Congress).** Discussions will be based on the following panel sessions: women in politics, women in culture, women in media, women in science, women and health, women on labor markets, women and existing practices and habits (house-work done by women), women and entrepreneurship.

## V. Draft agenda:

### 20 June

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from 12:00	Registration
13:00	Lunch
14:00	<b>OPTIONAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b>
18:00	Artistic event

### 21 June

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9:30	Registration
10:30	<b>OPENING AND KEY-NOTE ADDRESSES</b>
11:15	<b>SESSION I:</b> Politics, Local Governments, NGO's
12:15	<b>SESSION II:</b> Economy and Labor Market
13:15	Lunch
14:00	<b>SESSION IV:</b> Media , Culture and Science
15:00	<b>SESSION V:</b> Social Policy, Violence against Women, Health
16:00	Wrapping up, signing of the Declaration, etc.
ca. 17:00	End of the Congress