



Republic of Poland

By Ivan Chumakov

POSITION OF POLAND REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

Article 33 of the Polish Constitution guarantees women rights in the family, political, social and economical equal to men. The country was one of the first to allow women to vote in Europe, back in 1918. 145 out of 460 MPs in Sejm are women, and the share of women in politics continues to rise at a rapid pace. Legally, political parties are required to place at least 35% of candidates of each gender for elections. However, Poland outright bans abortions for reasons other than rape, incest and direct threat to maternal health and women are still underrepresented in executive positions, despite 63% of graduates and 68% of graduates being women.

Position on the matter

Relations between Poland and the DRC are politically complicated. In 2024 president Andrzej Duda visited Kigali and signed a series of defensive and security agreements with Rwanda, which caused a direct condemnation from Kinshasa, due to Rwandan support of M23. Despite that, Poland has economic ties to DRC, and is directly engaged in Congolese mining, industrial and agricultural sectors.

Poland has not voiced an opinion on the matter of women's rights violations in Congo,

and generally holds on to the policy of non-interventionism, however, Polish positions regarding human rights including gender equality aligns with the general EU frameworks.

Proposed solutions

Poland will condemn any kinds of physical violence against women, conducted by the militant groups, such as M23 on the territory of the DRC. Gender quotas might be proposed for the election, similar to Sejm. In questions of access to health and education, Poland will be supportive of the programs that don't require direct contributions from all member states and in endorsements of programs run by NGOs and CSOs, such as Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and others, already present in the DRC. However, Poland will be heavily against any targeted condemnation to the Congolese government.

Potential Blocks

Poland will align with the EU (represented as Spain, Sweden and France) in general humanitarian proposals. However, when it comes to sovereignty Poland might pivot to supporting China and Russia.

