



Appeal of the 11th National Pedagogical Convention

We, representatives of Polish academic pedagogy, gathered at the 11th National Pedagogical Convention, taking place on 20 – 22 September 2022 in Poznań, appeal to the international community of educators, teachers and pedagogues to take action to support and sustain the respect of dignity, human rights and children's rights in the conditions of multidimensional upheaval. We consider our knowledge, research results and commitment to education and upbringing in the spirit of the values of peace, solidarity, freedom and autonomy as the empowerment to take a stand against the current avalanche of threats against human health and life, social development and our further existence on our planet.

The time in which we live is characterized by an accumulation of crises. The war in Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation is ongoing. Its victims are not only those, including children and young people, in its immediate vicinity. It is spreading far and wide. It generates suffering, injustice and threats to the achievements of civilization.

Our task is to perceive these dangers, to mitigate their effects, to stop acts and processes of destruction of interpersonal relations, to teach and learn tolerance and solidarity. The spontaneous and widespread assistance shown by Polish women and men to the millions of Ukrainian citizens fleeing to our country from Russian aggression has become an example of such solidarity. This noble attitude, which is recognized and appreciated throughout the world and of which we can indeed be proud, shows what building a better world within and between us is means today.

Bearing in mind the words of Janusz Korczak: "One must not leave the world as it is", we educators appeal to transcend the administrative and psychological barriers holding back courage and innovation in changing, improving ourselves and the world in which we are currently living.

Educators, teachers and pedagogues, let us seize every opportunity to increase local and global civic engagement in pursuit of a just and sustainable development of individual and collective worlds in which we live. We should make efforts to replace thinking about power and control over others with thinking about human rights and justice, about responsibility for oneself, for others and for the environment, about education free from indoctrination. Every person and every community has the right to the sound knowledge and to autonomous determination of the values and ways in which they want to lead their own lives.

May this appeal guide our work and our human choices.

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Kostyło

Chairperson
of the 11th National Pedagogical Convention
President of the Polish Pedagogical Society

Prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska

Chairperson
of the 11th National Pedagogical Convention
Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies AMU