

The Law and Justice party has just received a bill for making policies without a dialogue. The revolution which has just started, is not only the fight for abortion rights. This is the fight for freedom so brutally taken away and abortion is symbolic of this loss of freedom – says Marta Lempart, the prime mover and one of the leaders of the All Poland Women's Strike. Since 22nd October, after the ruling of the party dominated Constitutional Tribunal regarding tightening of the abortion laws, tens thousands of people in Poland marched out on the streets. The protest was particularly visible 10 days later when it turned into a gigantic manifestation in Warsaw, spread over 500 other places in Poland from the large cities to small towns. Such scenes had never happened before. Even if due to the pandemic, the number of people in the streets are declining, nobody is resting the arms. The resistance continues in the social media.

Internet – which was once unimaginable – spilled out in the streets with all of its visual and verbal characteristics. With the thunder logo, coat hangers and Women's Strike flags, rainbow, red and white flags. Thousands of slogans spontaneously written on cardboards with flair, imagination and striking force were truly impressive, while for the government side, they were totally shocking. It is hard to fight against the mockery of the actions of the government. The best proof of this? Police ended up arresting a soft toy unicorn on the 7th of November which in no way strengthened the police's authority. Not only the activists of the All Poland Women's Strike, but also young people, students of both sexes, clearly communicated that the subject is not in agreement with the ruling and advised the ruling party to fuck off.

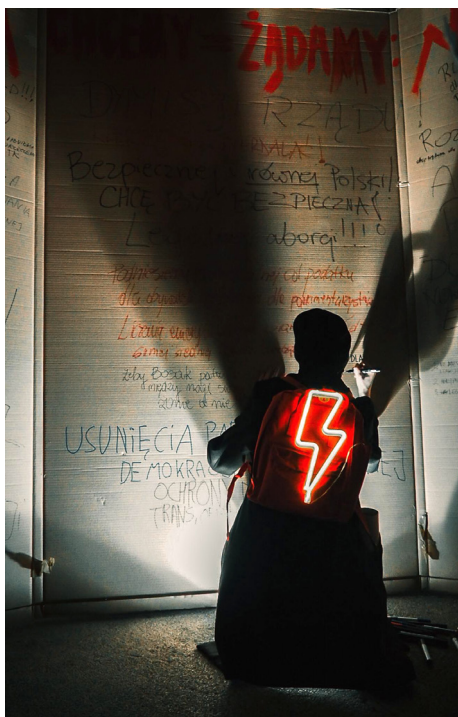
The ad hoc street alliances of feminists with farmers, taxi drivers, fitness workers, shopkeepers, candle and chrysanthemum sellers and even female football supporters pissed off with their own environment, will go down in history. The nationalists, called upon by Jarosław Kaczyński to defend the churches 'at all costs', disgraced themselves by attacking women protestors. We will not forget this, said the victims of these attacks. Same can be said for the police, when in Warsaw, women protesters were defended by the members of the Antifa. How else could this be, if the forces spent most of their time guarding the house of Law and Justice chairman Kaczyński. He is the addressee of most of the cardboard banners carried by the young people.

The bill was sent to the Catholic Church as well. For the first time, the protesters gathered en masse outside church buildings. This tactic was later replaced in the way which took

off the masks of shocked resentment from the faces of the Church hierarchs. Mass apostasies took place, giving up RC classes at school followed – this was much more offensive than adorning church fences with coat hangers and thunder logos. And again, a group of girls from Szczecinek, asking a surprised priest if 'he had an uterus' and shouting 'God is a woman' will be marked in history. This is the same rank of event as several thousands voices shouting outside the papal window to the archbishop Jędraszewski to go away. Of course, in a less than parliamentary language. In the long run, this is a game for something much bigger than the abortion law: young people rejected cultural hegemony of the Church – says professor Agnieszka Graff in her famous essay: 'How the Young broke a Great Compromise with the Church'.

For the first time, nobody in the walking and dancing crowd bothered with the parliamentary opposition and the politicians. Young people can count on the street opposition among middle aged and older generations, but what is interesting, these people join the protests increasingly more in the internet than in the streets – teachers, academics, university deans rightly grant the students their right to unrestrained participation in the public debate. The other side, plays deaf. The government, which at first was quiet, then tried to laugh off and ignore the protesters, simply lost the opportunity to engage in talks – declares Women's Strike. This revolution, built on women's anger, memes and chrysanthemum, cannot be stopped. Law and Justice, three years before the next elections, has already lost this war, but it still doesn't believe it.

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Demands written at the protest in Wrocław, 6th November 2020.
Photo: Patrycja Lisiecka.