



**Statement on an antisemitic incident in the Polish Parliament  
December 14, 2023**

The light of Chanukah candles is a symbol of victory over darkness, violence and hatred; it commemorates the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple. When the Jewish Community in Poland celebrates Chanukah, many of us are invited to participate in ceremonies filled with an atmosphere of joy and friendship.

Chanukah is an important part of the history of the Jewish people - from the time of the Maccabees over 2,000 years ago to today. In this context, we consider the behavior of MP Grzegorz Braun who disrupted Chanukah celebrations by putting out candles with a fire extinguisher in the building of the Sejm (Lower Chamber of the Parliament) of the Republic of Poland, to be absolutely unacceptable, unworthy of a member of the Polish Parliament and bringing shame on Poland. We unequivocally condemn this antisemitic act in the belief that it does not represent the sentiment of Polish society as a whole.

We appreciate the immediate and unequivocal reaction of the Speaker of the Sejm, Mr. Szymon Hołownia, of most members of the Presidium of the Sejm, and many parliamentarians and public figures. We hope that law enforcement institutions will mete out adequate punishment on the offender who committed such an unworthy act in the heart of Poland's democracy.

*Dr. Ewa Józwiak, Editor-in-chief, "Jednota" quarterly, Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland*

*Dr. Michał Klinger, Christian Orthodox theologian*

*Rabbi Małgorzata Kordowicz, Jewish Community of Warsaw*

*Prof. Stanisław Krajewski, Jewish Co-Chair of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews*

*Mufti Tomasz Miśkiewicz, Muslim Mufti in the Republic of Poland*

*Zbigniew Nosowski, Editor-in-chief, "Więź" quarterly*

*Dr. Sebastian Rejak, Chief Development & External Relations Officer, Jewish Community Center Kraków*

*Bp. Jerzy Samiec, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland*

*Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of the Republic of Poland*

*Prof. Agata Skowron-Nalborczyk, Common Council of Catholics and Muslims, Co-President from the Catholic side*

*Rev. Prof. Andrzej Szostek, President, the Catholic University of Lublin (1998-2004)*