

Warsaw, 21 February, 2014

Dear Ombudsman Colleagues!

In light of the severe human rights situation in Ukraine, where growing violence has led to death and serious injuries as well as significant human rights abuses, Poland – both on central and local level – has decided to help those who need our support most immediately. Many have been killed, hundreds are wounded. The number of people in desperate conditions is constantly growing. Poland is helping Ukraine, inter alia, by offering medical care in its hospitals.

However, any tangible examples of European solidarity, especially from countries from our region are now needed. Be it medical help, financial support or the exchange of information – any action showing our engagement and interest in the fate of Ukraine and its citizens is of immense significance.

I would like to ask you to elaborate possibilities of offering such help with your central and local authorities. Also encouraging civil society is of great value, especially by representatives of the Ombudsman community, who cooperate with each other on a daily basis in guarding fundamental human rights.

Should you need any additional information on possible ways of delivering support, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

With the assurances of my highest consideration,

Irena Lipowicz

Human Rights Defender - Poland