

Prof. Irena Lipowicz
Human Rights Defender

On the 10th of June 2010 Irena Lipowicz was appointed by the Parliament of the Republic of Poland as the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman)

In 1976 Irena Lipowicz graduated with honours from the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Silesia, Poland.

In 1981 she acquired the title of the Doctor of Law, and in 1992 – Doctor habilitatus.

Since 1980 Irena Lipowicz had been a member of the "Solidarność" Trade Union and a founding member of its Upper Silesian division.

In 2009 she was awarded the degree of Doctor honoris causa by the Osnabrück University (Germany)

Between 1991-2002 she served as Member of Parliament, where she was member of the Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly which drafted the Constitution of 1997. Since 1997 she has chaired the Local Government Committee; she was deputy chairman of the Freedom Union Parliamentary Club as well as of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; she also served as member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Since 1998 she has been professor of the Cardinal-Stefan-Wyszyński-University in Warsaw; currently she holds the chair of Administration Law and Local Government.

Between 2000 and 2004 she was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Austria.

Between 2004-2006 she served as Ambassador-Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Polish-German relations.

Elected to the College of the Supreme Audit Office for the years 2005-2010.

2006-2010 she was professor at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

2008-2010 she served as member of the Committee on Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

2008-2010 she held the office of managing director of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation.

Decorated with the Knight's Cross of the Polonia Restituta Order, granted the Edward J. Wende Award as well as the award of Grzegorz Palka for her services rendered to local government.

She was also awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold for the Services to the Republic of Austria, the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as decorations of the provinces of Styria and of Upper Austria.