

November 21, 2016

### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE POLISH ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) expresses its strongest support for the Polish Ethnological Society's position, as articulated in its **"Anti-Discrimination Manifesto of Polish Anthropologists and Ethnologists."**

Our colleagues in Poland are understandably alarmed by the xenophobic and racist responses of growing sectors of Polish society to the recent influx of refugees. Increasingly fleeing as families rather than as individuals, this tragically displaced population is seeking sanctuary from life-threatening dangers that have disrupted the everyday life of their natal communities, undermining their livelihoods and their lives as citizens. The heavy inflow of people who are culturally and linguistically different residents may have caused many Poles, based on their perceptions of the crisis, to anticipate potentially negative and destabilizing effects of migration and the expanded multiculturalism that tends to result.

Anthropologists and ethnologists in Poland are particularly well qualified to address the difficult challenges and tragic contradictions arising from the situation currently unfolding in Polish society. With the collective knowledge they possess as an intellectual community, our colleagues also have the capacity to raise the level of public awareness on matters of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and gendered diversity, as they relate to Poland today.

We are confident that the objectives of the **Special Meeting of Polish Anthropologists and Ethnologists** (November 23, 2016), organized around the theme of **"Anthropology against Discrimination,"** will be achieved. We express our deeply-felt solidarity and strongly commend our colleagues in Poland for their courageous endeavors.

Anti-Discrimination Manifesto of Polish Anthropologists and Ethnologists  
(November 2016)

<http://zjazd.weebly.com/english.html>

In 2011 the IUAES issued a statement against discrimination:

IUAES Statement on 'Race' and Racism (July 2011)

<http://www.iaes.org/statement/racism.html>