

Warsaw, 31 January 2018

We hereby protest against the draft bill of the Amended Act on the Institute of National Remembrance, passed by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland on 26 January 2018. In particular, we oppose the wording of the added Article 55a. 1, which stipulates that:

*“Whoever publicly and contrary to the facts attributes to the Polish Nation or to the Polish State responsibility or co-responsibility for the Nazi crimes committed by the German Third Reich, as specified in Article 6 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal - Annex to the Agreement for the prosecution and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis, executed in London on 8 August 1945 (Journal of Laws of 1947, item 367), or for any other offences constituting crimes against peace, humanity or war crimes, or otherwise grossly diminishes the responsibility of the actual perpetrators of these crimes, shall be liable to a fine or deprivation of liberty for up to 3 years. The judgment shall be communicated to the public.”**

We firmly believe that the Amended Act on the Institute of National Remembrance poses a threat to the freedom of public debate concerning the dark sides of Polish history in the 20th century (particularly those related to the Holocaust, such as *szmalcownictwo* – extortions and blackmailing of Jews in hiding), restricts academic research and dissemination of knowledge, and amounts to censorship, particularly in the area of education, but also in the sphere of artistic and cultural practices. It contributes to the pressure exerted on artists, curators, art critics, scholars, journalists and teachers, and above all – it results in manipulations of historical truth.

We utterly oppose any manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

Board of the Polish Section of the
International Association of Art
Critics AICA

* <http://ms.gov.pl/pl/informacje/news,10368,nowelizacja-ustawy-o-ipn--wersja-w-jezyku.html>