Absender

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Prosecutor General

Zbigniew Ziobro

Al. Ujazdowskie 11

00-950 Warsaw

POLEN

Datum

**Ela, Anna and Joanna**

Dear Prosecutor General,

Human rights defenders Ela, Anna and Joanna have been charged with 'offending religious beliefs’, a criminal offense under article 196 of the Criminal Code that carries up to two years’ in prison. They are accused of using and promoting posters depicting the Virgin Mary with a halo around head and shoulders in the colors of the LGBTI flag around the city of Płock, in central Poland, at the end of April 2019. Having, creating or distributing posters such as these, should not be a criminal offense and is protected under the right to freedom of expression.

Ela, Anna and Joanna are now risking up to two years in prison solely from their peaceful activism. The way they are targeted with absurd charges in this case is consistent with a pattern of harassment and intimidation of peaceful activists across Poland. Ela, Anna and Joanna have committed no crime and charges against the activists should be dropped. The court hearings in the case of Ela, Anna and Joanna started on 13 January 2021.

Please ensure that the charges against women human rights defenders Ela, Anna and Joanna for "offending religious beliefs" are dropped immediately and that they can carry out their peaceful activism free from harassment and reprisals by the authorities.

Yours sincerely,