

Dear Comrades,

we are Ciocia Czesia/ Auntie Czech- a collective of Polish women living in the Czech Republic, helping to get a safe abortion to hundreds of people who cannot do it in their own country. Almost a year ago, polish government, hand in hand with the catholic church, introduced the new, draconian law almost completely banning abortions in our country. They wanted us to carry a pregnancy even if it's already known that the baby would die within a few hours after birth - if not before. In October 2021, during the biggest covid restrictions, millions of Poles went to the streets, protesting every evening by marching in cities, towns and villages, showing up their disagreement, starting a wave of the biggest demonstrations since the fall of the communist regime.

We felt resigned and helpless that we cannot be in Poland, on the streets with all the others and support protests. Thus, from the mixture of solidarity, rage and compassion, our collective has emerged, inspired by her older aunties - Auntie Basia from Berlin and Auntie Wienia from Vienna - collectives around Europe that are helping people to obtain a legal abortion outside of Poland. Since that day we managed to self-organize and build our grassroots structures. We arranged appointments with lawyers, organized workshops with sister organizations and talked with more than 60 clinics and hospitals. In only two first months, more than two hundred volunteers were willing to help. Translators, people with a spare room to share or even the pilot with a private helicopter who offered to transport people if buses and trains were suspended due to COVID-19... Such a volume of support has blown out political cynicism and religious fanaticism from the horizon. With financial help from people all around the world, we were able to help over 500 people in this one year! Abortion is a class issue and we will do what is in our power to support those who are underprivileged! We strongly disagree to have it regulated by state or lack of access to resources!

In this year, we witnessed a new sisterhood being born. We came together in unity against people who want to control our bodies. A grassroot, international, unconditional and empowering solidarity, which will always find a way to help each other despite the barbaric law, lockdowns and the pandemic.

Dear Sisters, you will never walk alone!