



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of contents

Introduction	3
Counselling	4
Website	6
Social media	7
Instagram	7
Facebook	8
YouTube	9
Workshops	10
Public appearances	11
List of media appearances	13
Important references	16
Advocacy	18
Situation of non-heteronormative individuals	19
Internal work	21
Supervision for counsellors	21
Summary	22

Introduction

The year 2020 was full of challenges, hard work and changes for Ponton Group. One of the most relevant factors that defined our activity and triggered numerous problems was undoubtedly the pandemic. We are extremely proud of the fact that despite the big challenges on many levels, we managed to stay active in the field of sex education and at the same time, to support each other in these difficult times.

We started this year being full of hope, zeal and motivation. In January and February, we managed to organize the 2019 evaluation meeting, as well as the 2020 strategy meeting. None of us could suspect how many of our plans would have to be changed or postponed! It turned out quite soon that the February meeting was our last live meeting in 2020. For the sake of our safety, all the subsequent meetings concerning planning and organization took place only remotely. We are satisfied with what we managed to achieve, despite the unfavourable conditions. Although Ponton Group was unable to conduct typical workshops in schools, we remained active in the field of counselling, advocacy and supporting the youth.

We invite you to familiarize with the report on our actions.

Counselling

On our website, there is an online forum that has been functioning for years, where one can ask anonymous questions concerning contraception, relationships, sexuality, pregnancy, infections or puberty. In 2020, our forum gained a new graphic design – the improved layout facilitates not only moderating, but also placing new posts in appropriate categories. It's beneficial to both the users and the volunteers who answer the questions.



Although the forum had to be suspended due to technical issues concerning the registration, it is still open. The existing questions and answers serve as a precious knowledge base, from this year on in a more modern and accessible form.

Owing to the above-mentioned breakdown, counselling has mainly moved to the comments section under the articles on our website. Throughout the year, approximately 350 questions were asked that way, and they were all being successively answered by our volunteers.

Most common questions young people tend to ask concern invariably the possibility of getting pregnant. Young people need to be assured if various activities they engage in (for instance petting) may lead to fertilization. One can easily notice they lack some basic knowledge on the process of getting pregnant. In response to the returning questions we published an article about petting.

Similarly to the previous years, this year again, despite the pandemic, the educators from Ponton Group were available to answer the questions on our helpline each Friday from 4 to 8 PM at telephone number 22 635 93 92. Almost 40% of all the phone calls (there is also a psychologist, a lawyer and a gynaecologist available on other days) were answered by Ponton Group.

Most frequently the questions concerned basic matters. Despite the popularization and destigmatization of the topic of period, the menstrual cycle remains something enigmatic for many Poles. The callers often needed to consult their doubts about whether the sexual contacts they had engaged in might be qualified as risky, both in terms of STIs and unwanted

pregnancy. A great number of questions related to contraception, including using its specified types. It shows very clearly that even those who have already had a gynaecologist appointment lack the everyday chance to consult a specialist and ask him or her questions regarding for example omission of a pill. Also, we received numerous calls from male teenagers and young men who very often indicated that never before had they had an opportunity to gain reliable information about topics relating to puberty and psycho-sexual education.

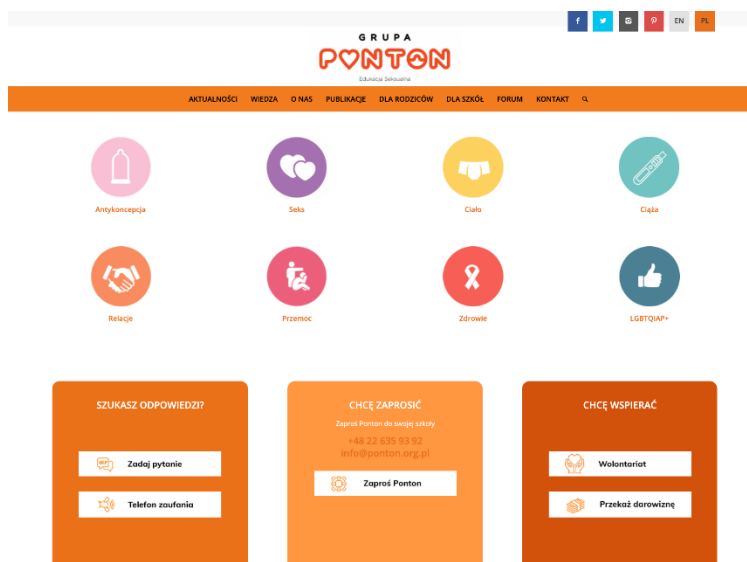
Another group of questions were those related to the body; we were able to see a huge need to comfort the callers that everything was fine with them. After a longer conversation, it usually turned out that the teenagers were really concerned about how much their physique differed from the bodies promoted in the media, social media as well as in porn – according to our observations, the latter still serves as a ‘source of information’ for the youth.



At the end of the year, a new e-mail address, porady@ponton.org.pl, started functioning. It is another means of contacting Ponton Group – next to the forum, the website, the helpline and the social media – where young people can share their doubts concerning sexuality. Since we started running it in late December, we have already given approximately 100 pieces of advice via our e-mail address.

Website

In 2020, 16 new articles appeared on our website. They explored key topics concerning sexuality, and they constitute a reliable source of knowledge for the youth. Reading these texts, young people can learn more about for example bodily fluids, menstruation, sexting, homophobia and transphobia, first sexual experiences, phimosis or the LGBTQ+ community.



On our website, we have also published more reviews of the books for people at different ages. Teenagers can read about 'Consent: The New Rules of Sex Education' by Jennifer Lang or the comic book 'Girlsplaining' by Katja Klengel; their parents can read for instance about 'Uniesienie spódnicy' by Voca Ilnicka as well as the book for younger kids 'Kisses, YUK!' by Barbara Rose and Volker Fredrich.

Książki dla dzieci oraz młodszych nastolatków i nastolatków



Social media

The online presence is currently a vital part of Ponton's activity. Thanks to that, we expand our audience and reach not only to residents of Warsaw, but also people living across the whole country and Polish-speaking people living abroad. Social media is not merely an addition to teenagers' lives; it is a space where a large part of interactions take place, so it is extremely important for us to provide ourselves with recognition and access to these channels.

Instagram



In 2020, we had to move much of our work online and it gave us an opportunity to further develop our social media accounts. On Instagram, we continued our campaign about first times to later touch on topics such as hygiene, body fluids, abortion and pornography. We used Instastories to elaborate on content shared in posts and answer questions from our followers.

We shared information about important events, Ponton Group's activities and content we found interesting. We were active online during strikes and protests after the Constitutional Tribunal's decision to ban embriopathological abortion on October 22. We also organized an online protest called #WiedzaNieWięzienie (#KnowledgeNotPrison) against bans on sex education proposed within the scope of the "Stop Paedophilia" bill. In 2020, we gained 3.1k new followers and our account is now followed by 9.5k people.



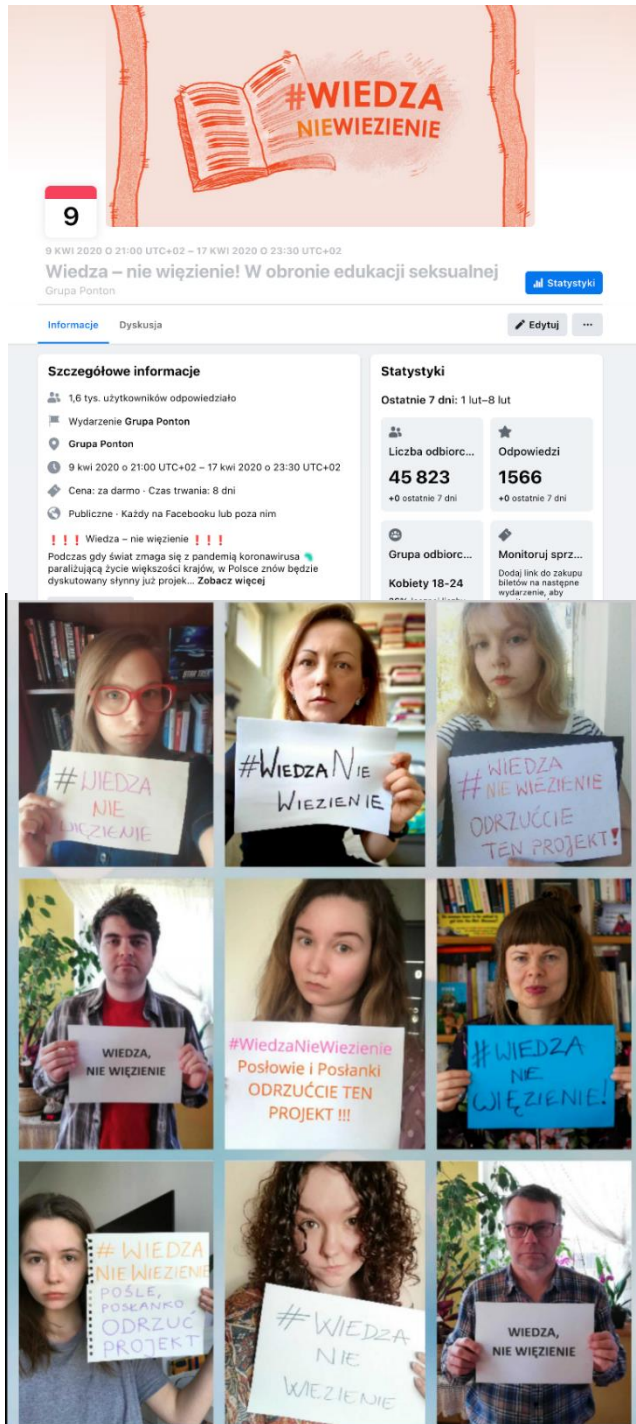
Facebook

As already mentioned, in 2020 we moved many of our activities online and among others to Facebook. Thanks to regular posts and original content we managed to gain 3.5k new followers and by the end of December our page was liked by 18.6k people. Among the most popular posts there were two online classes about contraception and periods conducted by one of our volunteers during the first lockdown in March.

In April, we initiated a national campaign to protest against a popular initiative that proposed penalties for sex educators working with the youth under the age of 18. Our Facebook event, which was the main communication channel of the campaign, was followed by 1.5k people. During the protest we came up with and promoted the #WiedzaNieWięzenie (#KnowledgeNotPrison) hashtag using memes, posts and a profile picture frame. Our hashtag was later used by other NGOs and private profiles to promote content supporting the protest.

From June 25 and to November 9, we used Facebook to promote our new YouTube channel and our first campaign “Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz” (“Ask before you start”). Each of the 5 videos was promoted via its own Facebook event and dedicated posts on our main page.

Toward the end of 2020, we participated in the international campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”. We created 9 original posts containing information about gender-based violence, the campaigns history and reproductive health. We ended the



campaign on December 6 and kept posting reminders about our forum and helpline. We also used Facebook to promote and collect data for our future report on sex education in Poland.

YouTube

In 2020, after months of planning and preparation, we restored our slightly outdated YouTube channel. We managed to do that thanks to financial help from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. Between June and November 2020, we posted 5 educational videos in a series entitled “Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz” (“Ask before you start”). In these videos we explored topics such as consent, sexual initiation, contraception, body, and STIs. During each premiere, our volunteers were available to the viewers via live chat to answer any questions they might have on the topic discussed. Currently 423 people are subscribed to our channel and the most popular video was viewed 1337 times. We plan to continue working on our channel and using this platform.

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'GRUPA PONTON'. The channel name is 'Grupa Ponton' with 428 subscribers. The navigation menu includes 'GLÓWNA', 'WIDEO', 'PLAYLISTY', 'KANALY', 'DYSKUSJA', and 'INFORMACJE'. The video section is titled 'Przesłane filmy' and displays five video thumbnails with their titles and view counts:

Video Title	Duration	Views	Time Posted
Infekcje przenoszone drogą płciową? Zapytaj, zanim...	16:14	300 wyświetleń	2 miesiące temu
CIAŁO DO KOCHANIA? Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz!	20:45	372 wyświetlenia	4 miesiące temu
ANTYKONCEPCJA? Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz!	16:55	694 wyświetlenia	5 miesięcy temu
PIERWSZY RAZ? Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz!	12:00	1,2 tys. wyświetleń	6 miesięcy temu
ŚWIADOMA ZGODA? Zapytaj, zanim zaczniesz!	9:33	1,3 tys. wyświetleń	7 miesięcy temu

Workshops

Workshops conducted in public schools have always been the main activity for Ponton Group. Currently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our activity had to be moved online (counselling via social media and email). For most of the year, young people didn't have regular classes at schools, so we tried to adapt to these new circumstances and provide them with online educational materials.

As a result, we did not conduct any classes in person at schools. However, we managed to organise two webinars during the first lockdown in early spring. These were mainly lectures, but we provided our viewers with the opportunity to ask questions live and interact even after the class was over. We acknowledge that this level of interaction cannot be compared to in-person workshops, but they were sufficient considering the circumstances.

WIRTUALNA KLASA
GRUPY PONTON
W CZASIE KORONAWIRUSA

////
PONTON

Edukacja seksualna on-line

19.03 i 20.03
(czwartek i piątek)
godz. 12:00

 @grupaponton



GRUPA
PONTON

Public appearances

7.03.2020. One of our volunteers, Agata Kozłowska, participated in a debate along with Barbara Ewa Baran before the viewing of „LOVESEX – TALES OF YOUNG” by Anja Kvistgaard Marott during the HER Docs Film Festival 2020.



17.09.2020. Our sex educators Antonina Lewandowska i Finka Heynemann participated in the first sitting of the Parliamentary Committee on Sex Education. During the meeting the Children’s Ombudsman was blamed for his behaviour and words related to sex education. Moreover, the first foundations for a new regulation on sex education were established.

18.09.2020. The first reading of the president’s bill restricting the school activity of NGOs was planned for this day. However, representatives of the society were not invited and therefore, MP Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bąk led a group of activists, including one of our volunteers Antonina Lewandowska, into the Parliament to stop the proceedings. Their efforts were successful and the project was taken off the agenda.

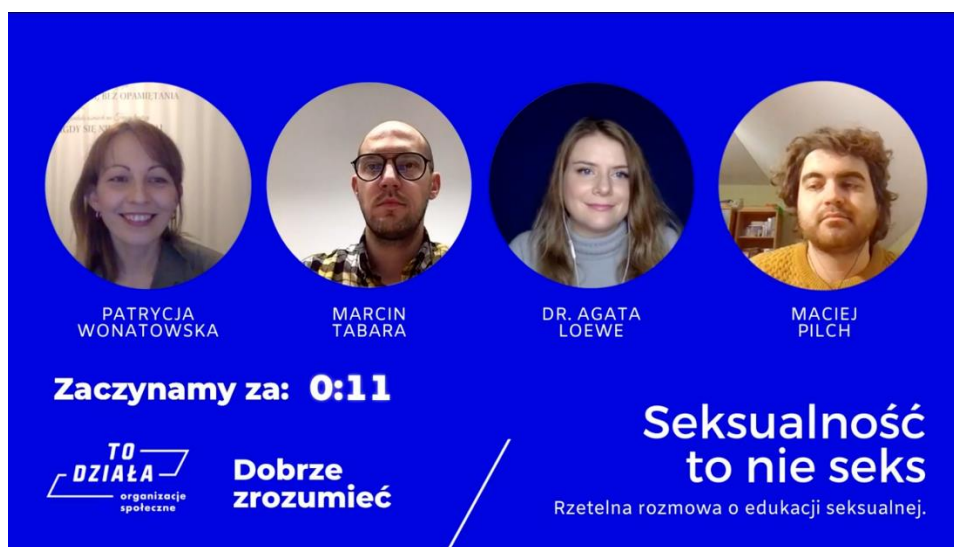


5.10.2020. Our sex educator Agata Kozłowska participated in a debate entitled “Sex education or education for (a healthy) family life - which one do we need more nowadays?” organised by the “Edukacja: można inaczej” webpage. The other speakers during the debate were Agnieszka Stein and Szymon Grzelak.

15.10.2020. MP Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus along with the Federation for Women and Family Planning and the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights organised the premiere of the “European Contraception Policy Atlas 2020”. The Atlas talks about the (un)availability of different contraception methods internationally and the reasons for such legislation. One of our volunteers, Antonina Lewandowska, had a speech about the situation in Poland. The general assessment for Poland was very poor with the worst access to

contraception in Europe. However, among others, Ponton Group and our website containing reliable information on sexuality and reproductive health helped improve the overall score.

12.11.2020. The „Organizacje społeczne. To działa” initiative organized an online meeting entitled “Seksualność to nie seks. | Rzetelna rozmowa o edukacji seksualnej” (*Sexuality doesn't equal sex. A comprehensive conversation on sex education*). It was an opportunity to listen to two of our educators – Patrycja Wonatowska (who hosted the meeting) and Maciej Pilch (as well as Agata Loewe, PhD and Marcin Tabar, Instagram famous as edukator_seksulany), who talked about what psychosexual education was and why people shouldn't be afraid of it.



14.12.2020. Two of our educators, Agata Kozłowska and Alina Synakiewicz, held a lecture and a workshop entitled “Rozwój psychoseksualny dzieci i młodzieży. Wyzwania i trudności” (*Psychosexual development of children and adolescents. Challenges and difficulties*), as part of the “Baza Kompetencji 2020” seminar organized by Konsorcjum Nowa Baza. It was a seminar for professionals working with children and teenagers.

List of media appearances

This year, Ponton Group has quite frequently appeared in the media considering most of media reports covered topics related to the pandemic.

- 3.01.2020
Antonina Lewandowska on a government's bill concerning restrictions on children's and teenagers' access to pornography
<https://oko.press/rzad-chce-ograniczyc-dostep-do-pornografii/>
- 9.01.2020
Antonina Lewandowska on sexual violence
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-50976830/are-europe-s-rape-laws-letting-women-down>
- 15.01.2020
Antonina Lewandowska on the „Stop Paedophilia” bill (French radio)
<https://soundcloud.com/thomas-giraudeau-3/education-sexuelle-prison-pologne>
- 30.01.2020
Patrycja Wonatowska on neighbourly relations within the context of human sexuality
<https://rzeszow.wyborcza.pl/rzeszow/7,34962,25646851,seks-na-wysokim-c-przy-kosynierow-sasiedzi-prosza-by-kochac.html>
- 12.02.2020
Zuza Muczko on HIV and AIDS
<https://www.polskieradio.pl/10/4339/Artykul/2454167,Dajesz-rade-12022020-1405>
- 23.03.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak and Finka Heynemann in the „Całego Ciała” broadcast by the Federation for Women and Family Planning
<https://publicystyka.ngo.pl/calegociala-o-edukacji-seksualnej>
- 15.04.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on psychosexual education
<https://noizz.pl/opinie/edukacja-seksualna-w-szkole-jest-taka-samo-wazna-jak-biologia-czy-fizyka-ponton/5eexg70>
- 1.06.2020
Antonina Lewandowska on teen mums
<https://kobieta.onet.pl/dziecko/nastolatki/nieletnie-matki-z-polski/wfglys8>

- 19.06.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on psychosexual education and LGBT+ declaration
<https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26047510,abp-jedraszewski-na-wawelu-mowil-o-bozku-seksu-maja-mu-oddawac.html>
- 25.07.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on 'Family Life' classes
<https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/kraj/edukacja-seksualna-w-polsce/fxm3gdz>
- 5.08.2020
Finka Heynemann and Jagoda Maciak talk about periods in the „Całego Ciała” broadcast by the Federation for Women and Family Planning
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVQh78_To4A
- 1.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on the statement made by the Ombudsman for Children concerning drugs to change children's gender
<https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26257260,rzecznik-praw-dziecka-opowiada-o-idei-lgbt-nie-jest-zgodna.htm>
- 1.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on sex education during the pandemic
<https://wyborcza.pl/7,162657,26258353,pandemia-i-polityczny-klimat-przenosza-edukacje-seksualna-do.html>
- 3.09.2020
Finka Heynemann on the statement made by the Ombudsman for Children concerning drugs to change children's gender
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=938965339903820>
- 3.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on the statement made by the Ombudsman for Children concerning drugs to change children's gender
<https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26264905,minister-piontkowski-o-slowach-rpd-w-szkolach-nikt-tabletek.html>
- 3.09.2020
Finka Heynemann on the statement made by the Ombudsman for Children concerning drugs to change children's gender
<https://www.onet.pl/informacje/onetwiadomosci/edukatorka-seksualna-rzecznik-praw-dziecka-powinien-sie-wstawiac-za-dziecmi-lgbt/18ybt45,79cfc278>

- 8.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on psychosexual education
<https://www.newsweek.pl/polska/spoleczenstwo/edukacja-seksualna-dlaczego-jest-nam-tak-bardzo-potrzebna-w-szkolach-opowiadaja/7sbk755>
- 16.09.2020
Alina Synakiewicz on myths about sex education
<https://player.chillizet.pl/Podcasty/Tylko-dla-doroslych/Czym-tak-naprawde-jest-edukacja-seksualna>
- 22.09.2020
Patrycja Wonatowska on a Danish fairy tale about a man with a very long penis
<https://halo.radio/podcasty/mariusz-rokos-2020-09-22-1500/>
- 22.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on periods, myths and superstitions
<https://zycie.hellozdrowie.pl/wiem-o-dziewczynkach-ktore-probowaly-przyklejac-podpaske-do-ciala-nie-majtek-mowi-katarzyna-banasiak-edukatorka-seksualna>
- 24.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on the president's bill restricting the activity of education NGOs
<https://www.prawo.pl/oswiata/lekcje-prowadzone-przez-stowarzyszenia-trwa-spor-o-nowa-ustawe,503325.html>
- 27.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on masturbation
<https://noizz.pl/spoleczenstwo/ciezarowki-anty-lgbt-strasza-masturbacja-a-ja-chcialem-sie-o-niej-uczyc-w-szkole/3zk0qbw>
- 23.09.2020
Katarzyna Banasiak on biology textbooks
<https://wyborcza.pl/7,162657,26329928,antykoncepcji-nie-ma-w-podreczniku-biologii-czy-pojawi-sie.html>
- 30.10.2020
Paulina Wawrzyńczyk on sex education
<https://moznainaczej.edu.pl/newschool-odc-10-edukacja-seksualna-rozmowa-z-paulina-wawrzynczyk>

Important references

- 30.01.2020
Reference to Ponton Group's report on 'Family Life' classes
<https://urodzajcia.pl/psychologia/polka-u-seksuologa-czy-potrafimy-romawiac-o-seksie-123320-r1/>
- 27.03.2020
Hello Zdrowie referred to our educational campaign on Instagram
<https://www.hellozdrowie.pl/higiena-intymna-jak-absolutnie-nie-nalezy-tego-robic-podpowiadaja-edukatorki-i-edukatorzy-seksualni-z-grupy-ponton/>
- 14.04.2020
Commissioner for Human Rights referred to our position on the „Stop Paedophilia” bill
<https://www.rpo.gov.pl/sites/default/files/Do%20Marsza%C5%82ek%20Sejmu%2C%2014.04.2020.pdf>
- 17.04.2020
Reference to Ponton Group's position on the „Stop Paedophilia” bill
<https://krytykapolityczna.pl/kraj/strzelaj-do-zwierzat-na-oczach-dziecka-ale-nie-mow-mu-nic-o-seksie/>
- 6.08.2020
Paulina Klepacz's publication on sexual initiation, which was written in cooperation with Ponton Group
<https://www.wysokieobcasy.pl/wysokie-obcasy/7,96950,26187084,pierwszy-raz-czy-pierwsze-razy-inicjacja-seksualna-to-proces.html>
- 31.08.2020
Ponton Group was recommended as a reliable source of knowledge and information
<https://vibez.pl/wydarzenia/gdzie-szukac-odpowiedzi-na-pytania-o-seksie-6546876342946432a>
- 18.09.2020
Mention of our presence during the meeting of the Education, Science and Youth Committee
<https://serwisy.gazetaprawna.pl/edukacja/artykuly/1491298,stowarzyszenia-w-szkole-duda-projekt-ustawy.html>
- 27.10.2020
Ponton Group was recommended as a reliable source of knowledge and information
<https://ladnebebe.pl/moje-cialo-moj-wybor-strajkujemy/>

- 10.12.2020
Ponton Group was recommended as a reliable source of knowledge and information
<https://www.ofeminin.pl/swiat-kobiet/dlaczego-potrzebujemy-edukacji-seksualnej-opinia/5wb4mww>
- 2020
The data from one of our articles was recommended as a reliable source of information
<https://yourkaya.pl/blog/ile-krwi-traci-sie-podczas-okresu>

Advocacy

Ponton Group has been actively taking part in the public discussion concerning youth rights and sex education for years. We publish positions and comment on current affairs concerning sex education and youth reproductive health.

This year, we strongly reacted when our work was in danger and children's and teenagers' right to comprehensive education were violated.

- Our position on the lack of any reaction of the Ministry of National Education to teenagers' suicides
<https://ponton.org.pl/aktualnosci/stanowisko-w-sprawie-braku-reakcji-men-na-samobojstwa-mlodziezy/>
- Ponton Group's position on the "Stop Paedophilia" bill 2020
<https://ponton.org.pl/en/news/ponton-groups-position-on-the-stop-paedofilia-bill-2020/>

The proposed bills on public praising of minors' engagement in sexual behaviours could forbid sex education classes, as well as conversations on sex with minors. It is a cruel attempt to intimidate sex and anti-discrimination educators, as well as to deny young people their rightful access to health care.



- NGOs statement on the social crisis
<https://amnesty.org.pl/oswiadczenie-organizacji-spoecznych-w-sprawie-kryzysu-spoecznego/>
- Ponton Group signed an appeal to the authorities (especially to the Ministry of National Education) concerning the management of the education system during the pandemic
<https://centrumcyfrowe.pl/czytelnia/polska-edukacja-w-czasie-i-po-pandemii-problemy-zaniechania-i-pytania-do-wladz/>

We have also made statements and gave our opinion in the media, via social media, as well as in private conversations, which are difficult to track, but they constitute an important part of the individual work of Ponton Group's volunteers.

Situation of non-heteronormative individuals

Due to social distancing and epidemiological restrictions, the year 2020 was very mentally challenging for most of us. For non-heteronormative people it was even more difficult because of a mounting smear campaign going on since 2019. There were campaigns promoting false information, there was violence during peaceful protests in the streets, as well as systemic discrimination.

Actions performed by radical conservative organizations, like the PRO – Prawo do życia Foundation, received explicit support from the government, both at the central and the local level. Regional authorities have kept accepting the anti-LGBT Charter of Family Rights (Karta Praw Rodziny) prepared by Ordo Iuris. Moreover, the government has praised local authorities which adopted anti-LGBT resolutions in 2019.

We have also observed a rise in the activity of lorries driving around towns displaying posters and loudly playing voice advertisements encouraging hate towards LGBT people and connecting them to paedophilia. In 2020, they were escorted by police squads, which prevented citizens from stopping the lorries and resulted in fines given to protesters.

The rainbow symbol has started to be treated as offensive. The government has been protecting monuments to a greater extent than the rights of LGBTQ+ Poles. The police illegally abducted people accused of desecrating statues with pride flags, whereas wearing a rainbow bag has been enough of a reason to be booked. A new Minister of National Education has been appointed, known for publicly dehumanizing non-heteronormative people. Local education boards have sent out letters to schools discrediting *Tęczowy Piątek* (Pride Friday), an educational and solidarity action.

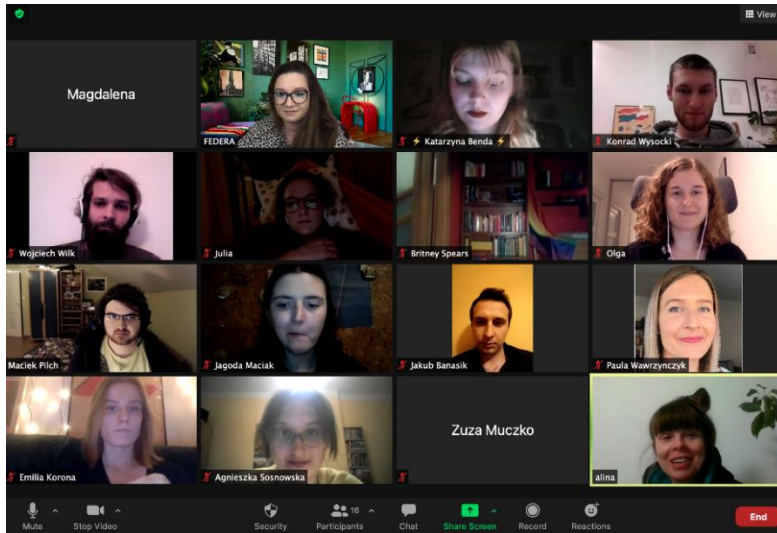
Transgender people have been struggling with exclusionary language used by some of the groups whose struggles they themselves had supported. There has been a notable pushback against calling the protest against the new abortion law “the strike of women and people with uteri”. Such phrase would include transgender persons who are able to get pregnant and may need an abortion, despite not being women.

Given the situation, it was essential to support the LGBTQ+ people so they wouldn't feel alone, as well as educating everyone affected by the hateful disinformation campaigns. As Ponton Group, we addressed both. We joined the support action for the Stop Bullshit collective, while posting reliable information about gender and psychosexual orientation on our website and social media. When writing about bodies, we have tried to use gender neutral language that would include everyone, regardless of their gender. Ponton's volunteers participated in numerous marches and protests despite the pandemic, not only those connected to the delegalization of abortion, but also those showing solidarity with LGBTQ+ people.



Internal work

In order to be able to offer sex education that meets high standards, Ponton volunteers keep undergoing internal training. Such meetings not only help improving medical knowledge but also serve as integration, organization and project meetings. We learn from each other and from experts to expand our knowledge and practice skills necessary to educate others.



Supervision for counsellors

On September 22nd and November 24th, there were supervision meetings for educators working in the counselling section of Ponton Group. It was an opportunity to professionally discuss the most difficult situations reported by the counsellors, to take a breather and to receive constructive feedback from the team. It requires plenty of effort, patience and time to provide counselling and support in its broadest sense, as well as reliable information in an easy way for young people of all ages.

During the first supervision meeting, we worked out guidelines on how to react to any kind of issue. During the second meeting, we discussed how these guidelines were useful in practice. The results were positive; thanks to introducing these guidelines we've managed to improve the educators' comfort (less prank calls/messages and calls/messages from people outside of Ponton's target), as well as create more space for people in real need of help. During the supervision meetings, we formulated plans for the future, mostly to promote our counselling on a wider scale.

Summary

Our goal for 2020 was to keep up the hard work for sex education and the wellbeing of the youth, despite the hostile political climate. We've never predicted the situation to worsen. Not only did the pandemic start, but also (and above all) we could observe the reprehensible behaviour of the ruling party, which threatened (and still does) sex educator with jail, spearheaded a systemic hate campaign against LGBTQ+ people and provoked the largest protests in years against the stricter anti-abortion law.

Due to the pandemic, we've moved a huge part of our activity to the internet, which was inevitable in order to keep providing young people with support regarding their sexuality. Thanks to that we could focus more on this aspect of our work – through social media presence, our new video resources, online seminars and media appearances. Considering the amount of advice provided, the number of mentions of Ponton Group in the press, on the internet, radio and in television, as well as our increased activity and recognizability during the protests, we are sure that our work is essential, needed, wanted and appreciated.

The online year 2020 turns into 2021, which seems to be another year of remote work and, sadly, struggling against the political narrative in Poland. Our mission will remain to provide the youth with a safe space and support. We know that our work positively affects the wellbeing of young people. The year 2020 has been, without a trace of doubt, extraordinary, difficult, spotted with many saddening events regarding our reproductive rights. However, looking back at our achievements, we dare to be proud and optimistic about the future.

