



Joint Statement on Poland's Parliament Approving a Bill to Temporarily Suspend Asylum Rights

Poland's parliament has approved a bill allowing the government to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of countering the "instrumentalization of migration". This law stands in opposition to the stated values of the European Union and sets a dangerous precedent in which existing laws can be suspended at a convenient moment and the fundamental rights of the individuals are subordinated to political interests.

The stated aim of this law is to counter 'instrumentalisation of migration' and strengthen Poland's security. Though, the bill only legitimises the already ongoing illicit practices that are violent pushbacks. People moving through the Belarus-Poland route, both at the official border crossings and at the green border, are already systematically prevented from accessing asylum procedures. We see this legislation as nothing more than a populist move to win favour of the right wing voters in the upcoming presidential election. Such a move does not strengthen Poland nor the EU. It instead strengthens racist narratives and fuels fear against migration. It is likely to strengthen human trafficking by forcing people onto riskier routes. It further legitimizes pushbacks at the Belarus border and exposes people to even more violence and inhumane conditions. Most of all, it sets a dangerous precedent for other Member States by suspending an inalienable, positive, and fundamental right.

[Over 120,000 pushbacks have already taken place across EU borders in 2024 alone, and at least 89 people are believed to have died at the Polish-Belarusian border.](#)

Human rights groups have condemned this bill as unlawful, and in November, [more than 60 civil society organizations and 10 MEPs urged the European Commission to uphold its treaties.](#) This is yet another example of migration being weaponized in political games at the expense of people on the move and the Rule of the Law. A strong EU and Poland would not abandon their legal and moral commitments to human rights and the rule of law.