ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MANIFESTO OF POLISH ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND ETHNOLOGISTS

As representatives of the disciplines of Anthropology and Ethnology we feel particularly responsible for how culture and society are understood and represented. We are deeply concerned with the proliferation of manipulation and ignorance in public debates, the media, education and politics in today’s Poland. We are referring in particular to misleading claims about migration, refugees and multiculturalism, as well as national, ethnic and religious identities. For all these reasons, we find it important and necessary to organize a Special Meeting of Ethnologists and Anthropologists and to collectively take a stance on these issues.

For more than one hundred years, culture and society have been the main focus of our discipline’s theoretical reflection and empirical studies. Therefore, we feel both obliged and authorized to speak up when this knowledge is used to mislead the public. Our sense of obligation is grounded in the ethos of Anthropology – a discipline that serves society and humanistic values. We are also motivated by a sense of responsibility and civic duty.

In embracing these ideals, we strongly oppose discrimination, exclusion and hate speech motivated by cultural, religious, ethnic, gender or world-view differences. We protest the conscious manipulation of facts, the ideologization of beliefs, xenophobia, racism and violence directed at people who represent different cultures, identities, political stances, faiths and values. Such acts of hatred, which have become more frequent in Polish society today, undermine the foundations of the social order and frequently lead to real-life tragedies. We stand behind reliable knowledge about culture and society, call for mutual respect, and demand respect for humanist values. Our goal and dream is a diverse and open society built on the ideals of democracy and human rights.