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SIFUAB Interactive Poster Supporting Statement

Since its early days, Poland has been a country of xenophobia, homophobia, and misogyny. During the past few years, Polish politicians made the LGBTQ+ community a public enemy. This poster is a direct reaction to this year's political narrative, which resulted in the oppression of the LGBTQ community, declarations of LGBTQ-free zones, and suicides of young people.

The title refers to an interview with former Minister of Education, Mr. Dariusz Piontkowski. In September, a 12-year-old queer girl committed suicide after getting repeatedly bullied. People across Poland expressed their sorrow and anger, and a group of masked individuals painted names of suicide victims, as well as "Your LGBTQ+ child" on the Ministry of Education's building. Conservative politicians were outraged. When asked if the building mattered more than people's lives, Mr. Piontkowski denied suicide as real. Soon thereafter, new Minister of Education, Mr. Czarnek compared LGBTQ people to Nazis (Pinknews, 2020). It is obvious that right-wing politicians and MPs of the ruling Law and Justice party do not care about actual people, LGBTQ or not, only about their own values – in this case, an old building, belonging to Gestapo during WWII.



Fig 1 – Mr. Piontkowski in front of Ministry of Education building, Paweł Supernak, 2020

A key piece in making this piece was Krzysztof Gonciarz's YouTube movie by the title "Dear Mister President", released just a day before presidential election. Gonciarz, an influencer and photographer, commented heavily on absurd of President Duda's campaign, as one which

justifies using violence against LGBTQ people. President Duda encourages declarations of “LGBTQ-free zones”, and says “LGBTQ are not people”(BBC, 2020). At first, I couldn’t believe this was happening. It felt like an illusion, defragmentation of reality.



Fig 2 – Mr. Duda during his campaign in Brzeg, BBC, 2020

Fig 3 – Krzysztof Gonciarz and his commentary, released before 28th of June, YouTube, 2020

Lastly, whilst designing the poster, I wanted to pay homage to Black Mirror, the TV series. The biggest inspiration was how the public can punish people they see as criminals, whilst behaving like a hivemind. Internet is an useful tool, but we how its changing more into a death device, pushing vulnerable individuals over the edge. The visuals of the series create a dark and sinister vibe, which fits perfectly into such serious topic as death.

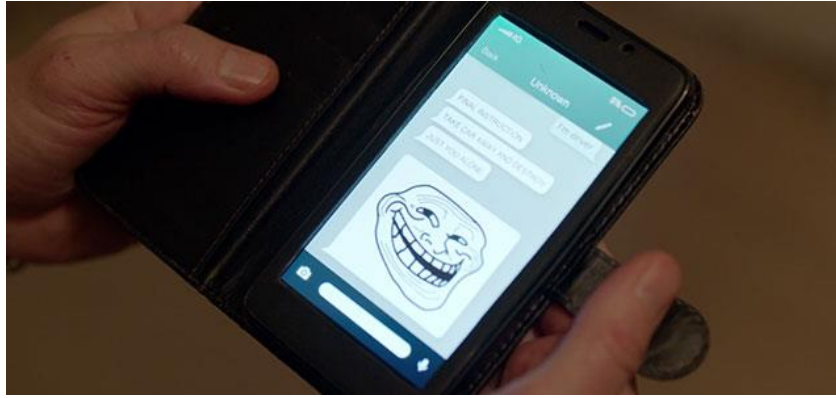


Fig 4 – Black Mirror, Shut Up And Dance episode, 2016

List of references:

1. MP Czarnek comparing LGBTQ to Nazis: <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/01/poland-przemyslaw-czarnek-anti-lgbt-minister-education-science-nazi-jaroslaw-kaczynski/>
2. President Duda during his campaign in Brzeg: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-53039864>
3. Krzysztof Gonciarz's speech "Dear Mister President", available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9gRXNVEbxI&ab_channel=KrzysztofGonciarz