

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Report from Poland

TED Advisory · Belgrade 2026

Andrzej Siciński — PARL Director, Polish Union

Legal background

Religious freedom in Poland is safeguarded by three legal acts:

I

The Constitution

of the Republic of Poland

II

Act on the Guarantees

of Freedom of Conscience
and Religion

III

Act on the Relationship

between the State
and the SDA Church

→ *One key provision from the third act follows on the next slide.*

Saturday in Polish law

Act on the Relationship between the State and the Seventh-day Adventist Church

1

Saturday is the Adventist holy day

2

Adventists have the right to be released from work and school

from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday

3

Such release must be granted on a mandatory basis

at the request of the employee or pupil

This right exists because of our Church's presence in public life — carried out through PARL.

"A Case for the Reporter"



On TVP — caption: "Andrzej Siciński – pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church"

since 2023

regular appearances on TVP

50

episodes to date

1 million

average weekly viewers

38M vs 6,000

Polish population vs Adventists

A unique chance to promote the name and image of our Church.

"A CASE FOR THE REPORTER"

My role on the programme

Reconcile

those in conflict

Comfort

those who have been hurt

Appeal

to viewers for support of those in need

Speak out firmly

against manipulation, or when people are being abused



ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, Warsaw

Speeches by representatives of the State authorities.
Prayers by clergy of various denominations.

Adventist pastors are recognised here as partners of public life — on equal footing with the larger Churches.

Relations with State authorities

Ministry of Justice

State–Church relations · equal status of religious denominations · religious discrimination

Ministry of National Education

Consultations on the teaching of religion in schools

Ministry of the Interior and Administration

Legal consultations on the reorganisation of Church institutions



Monitoring law • Interfaith relations

Monitoring religious-affairs law

- **Academic conferences**
on religious-affairs law
- **Government consultations**
with the Churches on matters in the
religious sphere requiring legal regulation

Interfaith relations

- **Polish Ecumenical Council**
Not a member, but invited each year to its
courtesy New Year reception
- **Personal relationships**
with many clergy and leaders of the main
religious denominations — some genuinely
friendly

Promoting religious freedom

Articles in our Church magazines · Television and online media



Znaki Czasu

Adventist magazine — articles on religious freedom



KomPas

"Commentary by Pastors" — YouTube channel

The menorah statement



Polish Parliament — December 2023

What happened

A member of parliament physically attacked a Hanukkah menorah — extinguishing it with a fire extinguisher.

Our response

A statement condemning the attack — sent to Parliament, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Union of Jewish Religious Communities, and the media.

The Deputy Commissioner publicly mentioned our Church with appreciation among the three that had protested.

Challenges

Two issues currently on PARL's desk

01

Polish-language exams for foreigners

Affecting Ukrainian Adventists in Poland

All of this year's examination dates fall on Saturdays. We need to approach the relevant ministry and the Commissioner for Human Rights to arrange at least one date next year that does not fall on a Saturday.

02

Compulsory military service

Concern among young Adventists

Possible reintroduction of compulsory service — and already today, call-ups for military reservists. We have prepared initial guides on alternative (non-combatant) service. The matter requires further study and close monitoring of changes in the law.

Thank you for your attention

Andrzej Siciński · PARL · Polish Union
andrzej.sicinski@adwent.pl

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