



EFC Warsaw Declaration

Philanthropic Alliance for Solidarity and Democracy in Europe

Warsaw, 2 June 2017

Today, in Warsaw, at the 28th European Foundation Centre conference “Courage to re-embrace solidarity in Europe”, a diverse group of foundations concerned with the state of democracy in Europe came together to launch the **Philanthropic Alliance for Solidarity and Democracy in Europe**.

Civil society across Europe is currently experiencing increasing infringements on its ability to operate independently, resulting in a negative impact on democracy, diversity, equality and freedom. Non-governmental and academic institutions and the free media are being constrained by governments, and civil society actors are attacked, discredited and presented as public enemies.

The **Philanthropic Alliance for Solidarity and Democracy in Europe** is concerned both with the operating environment for civil society and, more broadly, with the urgency to respond to the violation of democratic values such as human dignity, freedom, justice, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Therefore, we commit to pooling together broad-based, diverse philanthropic resources and establishing a **Solidarity Fund** to support initiatives aimed at strengthening civil society actors and safeguarding democratic values in Europe.

Initiating this alliance in Poland – the cradle of the solidarity movement in Europe – demonstrates the ability of the European and international philanthropic community to join forces to bolster solidarity across Europe.

We believe that as a philanthropic community we must send a firm collective message that democracy prevails and can only be realised by securing a strong, independent and enabled civil society. As organisations that use private funds for public good we have a critical role to play in calling on European public institutions to develop robust mechanisms to protect, defend and promote these fundamental freedoms.

Our times call urgently for courage to stand together and act for democracy and solidarity in Europe and around the world.