



ZJEDNOCZENIE POLSKIE W WIELKIEJ BRYTANII C.I.O.
FEDERATION OF POLES IN GREAT BRITAIN C.I.O.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS STATEMENT**

The Chair of the Federation of Poles, an umbrella organisation for over sixty Polish member organisations, Mr Tadeusz Stenzel, comments on the media reports on a so-called "strike" of Polish workers in Great Britain.

Mr Tadeusz Stenzel said:

I believe that this call for an "unofficial strike" is unlikely to threaten UK citizens in any way and has not secured the support of the majority of Poles living and working in the UK, including the organisations associated in the Federation of Poles in Great Britain.

We see this strike as an irresponsible and divisive way of presenting arguments in the immigration debate. Whilst we appreciate the concerns and frustrations of some migrant workers, we believe that any strike would do more harm than good to address these issues.

We are also concerned that there seems to be no legal protection for the protesters, as no unions or legal advisors are involved, and they may face legal consequences of not turning up to work on Thursday.

We note that there are likely to be more representatives of the media present at the focus of the so-called strike than actual demonstrators.

We also would like to express our concern about presenting blood donation as an alternative to striking by some self-promoting organisations and individuals.

The idea to donate blood as a way of positive social activism was originally instigated by Polish organisations in Scotland and in England in early 2015 working together on the "Bloody Foreigners" campaign in order to promote the good will of Poles and other migrant communities in the UK.

We have been notified that this campaign's organisers have decided not to support the call to donate blood on August 20th as an individual political act, as they would rather see people donate blood regularly all year round, without linking this to any political activism. We join them in that appeal.

Striking and donating blood are two very separate activities, and the Federation of Poles in Great Britain is strongly against linking them and making a political statement out of it. Blood is universal and has no race, religion, gender, or indeed political opinions, and we believe it should not be used for political purposes.

We encourage all migrants living in the UK to get involved and work with their local communities and organisations, along with all other nationalities, for the common good of the United Kingdom.

We also call upon the migrants to register to vote in local and European elections to fully exercise their democratic powers.

ENDS

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For full list of member organisations click [here](#).

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