



European Committee
of the Regions

Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award

for courage and excellence in promotion
of freedom, solidarity and equality

#AdamowiczAward



GDAŃSK



ICORN

INTERNATIONAL CITIES OF REFUGE NETWORK

This story starts with
an old city in Poland – Gdańsk



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In love with Freedom
and Solidarity...

And with a man,
in love with his city...

Paweł Adamowicz

Elected Mayor of Gdańsk in 1998 and
reelected in 2002 with 72% of the vote

In 2014, he received the Cross of
Freedom and Solidarity

Known as a liberal, progressive figure,
speaking in support of LGBT rights,
immigration, and minority groups.

He served as a Mayor for over
20 years and as a Member of the
European Committee of the Regions



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until...

he was assassinated, on 13 January 2019.

Mayor Adamowicz was stabbed during a live
charity event in Gdańsk, the Great Orchestra
of Christmas Charity's 27th Grand Finale by
an unstable man.



Award ceremony in February 2023 at the CoR Plenary session with the presence of: MEP Magdalena Adamowicz, Commissioner Ilva Johansson, laureate MPAA 2022 Marek Nazarko, Mayor of Michałowo, Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of CoR, Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk, Vincenzo Bianco, former President of the CIVEX Commission.

Founding Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award

The City of Gdańsk, the European Committee of the Regions, whose member the mayor was, and ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network, that Gdańsk joined during the mandate of Mayor Paweł Adamowicz) decide to launch an award to commemorate the late mayor and promote the values of **peace, solidarity, freedom and equality**.

The Award represents a strong signal of hope for all elected representatives, officials and ordinary citizens who, despite the risks, live to make democracy work at a local level by supporting better and more open communities.

A Statuette was created by the Polish artist Krzysztof M. Bednarski in 2022 to be given to the laureates.



Paweł Adamowicz was one of us. Today we honour his legacy by awarding the courage of those in our regions and cities who stand for these same values: freedom, solidarity and equality.

Vasco Alves Cordeiro, CoR President

For Paweł, human rights, unconditional equality, respect for the dignity of every person, openness and help for all people in need, including immigrants and refugees, were the unquestionable foundation of democracy and a benchmark for Europe's future.

Magdalena Adamowicz, MEP and widow of Paweł Adamowicz

The Paweł Adamowicz Award is not only to commemorate the values close to the Mayor of Gdańsk, who was assassinated in 2019, but above all to showcase attitudes worth emulating, values on which the EU is founded.

Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk

In our global work to protect the most persecuted and vulnerable freedom fighters, we know how crucial it is that individuals, cities, nations and transnational bodies do their utmost to transcend established boundaries and borders to create welcoming environments for those in the most urgent need.

Christopher Gribble, former Chair of ICORN

Community of values: laureates



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The [First Adamowicz Award](#) was attributed to Lord Mayor of Cologne, **Henriette Reker**, on 14 January 2022, in recognition of her extraordinary dedication and work in her city in promoting tolerance, inclusiveness, and the integration and non-discrimination of citizens with migrant backgrounds, whilst fighting hate-speech and xenophobia.

Amongst the many personal and professional challenges she has faced in carrying out this work, she survived a near-fatal xenophobia-motivated knife attack in October 2015.

«I am humbled and honoured to be awarded in remembrance of Paweł Adamowicz. Violence never was and never will be a solution. That is why we have to stand up for peace, for open dialogue and unitedness»



© Municipality of Michałowo

The [Second Adamowicz Award](#) was attributed to the municipality of Michałowo, and its mayor **Marek Nazarko**, on 14 January 2023 for the help offered to the refugees on the Bielorussian border by the citizens of Michałowo, providing them with food, clothing and shelter in harsh winter conditions, despite the national policy of push-backs beyond the border.

«I am proud of our local people because we were able to put into practice the values that the European Union brings, indeed, that humanity brings, and really bring them to life.»

Special recognition

The jury also decided to give a special mention to **Oleksandr Babich**, Mayor of Hola Prystan in the south of Ukraine, who has been held captive since March 2022 for trying to protect his local community. This special mention is given to Oleksandr Babich as a representative of all Ukrainian mayors who have been kidnapped or tortured since the start of the Russian invasion.

Unfortunately, it is not known if the four mayors who are kept in prison are still alive, while some of their communities are suffering a catastrophic flood, provoked by the destruction of the Novaya Kakhovka dam.

ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES urges to free

As of May 23, 2023



Ihor Kolykhayev
Kherson city mayor
Abducted on 28.06.2022



Yevheniy Matveev
Dniprorudne city mayor
Abducted on 13.03.2022



Oleksandr Babych
Hola Prystan city mayor
Abducted on 28.03.2022

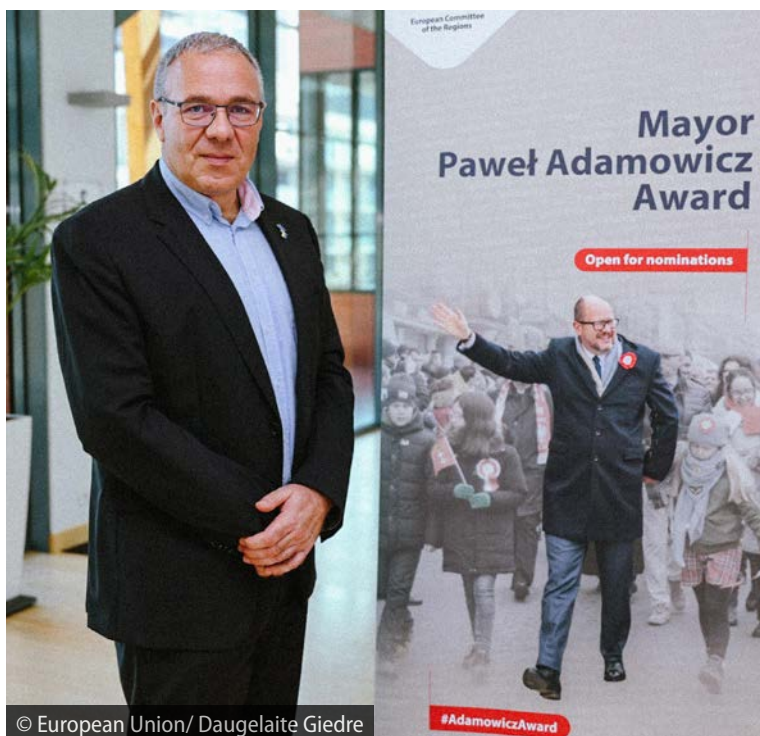


Volodymyr Karabero
Manhush settlement mayor
Abducted 25.03.2022

#FreeOurPeople

Launch of MPAA 2023 Nominations

The current edition of the Adamowicz Award was launched on 20 June 2023 at a meeting of the CoR's Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX), announced by CIVEX chair Patrick Molinoz (FR/PES), who presided already the MPAA 2022 Jury.



«Democracy is at stake when violence, manipulation, fake news and complotism become a daily reality. In that context the role of mayors should be stenghtened and protected. With this third edition, the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award will strengthen its recognition and importance.»

You can nominate a future laureate **until the 31 October 2023** if you are:

- a group of 10 (ten) CoR members, alternates and/or MEP-s together (subject to modalities to be agreed with the European Parliament)
- an ICORN city or its representative body (decision signed by chair of assembly or mayor)
- an international organisation (signed by an executive)
- any city or regional council (decision signed by chair of assembly or mayor)



Full Nomination
Criteria



Nominate your
candidates

For more information
please check our webpage
[Mayor Paweł Adamowicz
Award](#)



Or contact the CoR dedicated service at
AdamowiczAward@cor.europa.eu



European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States. Our members are elected presidents of regions, regional councillors, mayors and local councillors - democratically accountable to more than 446 million European citizens. The CoR's main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies.

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.



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Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 22822211 | e-mail: PublicationsCdR@cor.europa.eu | www.cor.europa.eu

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