



European Committee  
of the Regions

# Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award

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



#AdamowiczAward

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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.



Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award ceremony at the Regions' Summit in Mons, on 19 March 2024.

On the stage, from left to right:

CIVEX Chair Patrick Molinoz, Vice-President of the European Commission Věra Jourová, Maddalena Alberti, Executive director of LDA Zavidovici, laureate of the MPAA 2023, CoR President Vasco Alves Cordeiro, Agostino Zanotti, founder of LDA Zavidovici, MEP Magdalena Adamowicz, Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk


## 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.




 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**

 Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award is a strong signal for all elected officials, civil servants and citizens who make democracy work at the local level by supporting more open communities, built upon the founding values of the EU. Complacency about respect for human dignity and rights, about freedom and rule of law, undermines the foundations of our union, and those who defend them, sometimes despite high risks, deserve our full respect.

**Patrick Molinoz, Chair of CIVEX Commission, CoR**

 Busy doing good every day, unsung heroes of our times never brag about their deeds. This is what Mayor Paweł Adamowicz was like. Yet, every good deed should be made public, so that everyone would know who to follow as an example. This is what the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award is intended for.

**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.

**Annika Strömberg, Chair of ICORN**

# Community of values: laureates



© Jens Koch

The [First Adamowicz Award](#) was attributed to Lord Mayor of Cologne, **Henriette Reker**, for 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.

*«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**, for the help offered to the refugees on the Biorussian 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.»*



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The [Third Adamowicz Award](#) was attributed to LDA Zavidovići, NGO from Brescia, Italy, for its work in restoring economic dignity and social autonomy for thousands of people who are victims of conflict or persecution around the world. Its executive Director, **Maddalena Alberti**, received the Award in the name of the association.

*«Things do not happen quickly but the change is the result of a constant and long-term commitment. Courage is a virtue characterized by an endurance in the impossible: let the impossible become possible.»*

## Special recognition



The jury also decided to give a special mention to **Alla Myronova**, Mayor of Inhulka, in Ukraine, for the support she has provided to her community for 20 years, and particularly under Russian occupation.

Previously, Special mention was given to Oleksandr Babych, Mayor of Hola Prystan, representing all Ukrainian mayors abducted during Russian aggression.

# Launch of MPAA 2024 Nominations

The current edition of the Adamowicz Award was launched on 20 June 2024 at the Plenary session of the European Committee of the Regions, announced by the CoR President, Vasco Alves Cordeiro.



*«Mayor Paweł Adamowicz lost his life for standing up for the values of freedom, solidarity and equality. This Award represents the European Committee of the Regions' commitment to continuing his legacy. Local and regional representatives are guardians of the fundamental values on which the European project is built. They are on the frontline, fighting for more open communities and building an ever stronger and fairer Europe for all. Their commitment is an inspiration for us all.»*

You can nominate a future laureate **until the 31 October 2024** if you are:

- a group of 10 (ten) CoR members, alternates and/or MEP-s together
- 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)
- a national association of local and regional authorities



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](mailto:AdamowiczAward@cor.europa.eu)



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Created in 1994, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives such as regional presidents or city-mayors from all 27 Member States, representing over 446 million Europeans.

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