



European Committee
of the Regions

Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award

for courage in promoting freedom,
solidarity and equality

#AdamowiczAward



© European Union / Renata Dabrowska



GDAŃSK



International Cities of
Refuge Network

This story starts with
an old city in Poland – Gdańsk



© Leonard Szmaglik



© pillers - stock.adobe.com

In love with Freedom
and Solidarity...

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

Paweł Adamowicz

Elected Mayor of Gdańsk in 1998 and re-
elected 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



© Marta Sofia Vaz Silva



© Marta Sofia Vaz Silva

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.



The 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) decided 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 symbolize courage in defending democratic values.

Community of values: laureates



© Jens Koch

HENRIETTE REKER, Lord Mayor of Cologne, Germany, 2022

The Award was attributed to her for her extraordinary dedication and work in her city in promoting tolerance, inclusiveness, 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»

CITIZENS OF MICHAŁOWO, Poland, and their mayor **Marek Nazarko** 2023

The Award was attributed for the help the citizens of Michałowo offered to the refugees stranded on the Bielorussian border, 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.»



© Municipality of Michałowo



© European Union / Jérôme Van Belle - WBI

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY "ZAVIDOVIĆI", Brescia, Italy, 2024

The Award was attributed for the NGO's 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 organisation.

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

VITALIY KLITSCHKO, *mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine, 2025*

The Award was attributed for his extraordinary leadership in fostering civic engagement, even amid the extreme challenges of war. His advocacy for freedom, rule of law and European integration underlines his dedication to Kyiv's democratic future.

«This is not only a recognition of my work as the Mayor of Kyiv and a politician but also a testament to the unwavering commitment to the values of freedom and democracy, as well as the heroism of the entire Ukrainian people.»



© European Union / John Thys



© European Union / CEM TALU

EKREM İMAMOĞLU, *Mayor of Istanbul, Türkiye, 2026*

The Award was attributed for promoting inclusive, transparent and citizen-centred urban governance, strengthening democratic participation and accountability at local level despite growing political pressure.

«In these challenging times, as democracy is being undermined worldwide, the unity of those of us who believe in democracy and freedoms unquestionably serves as a powerful source of hope for the prosperity and future of our peoples.»

Special recognition

The jury of the Award decided to attribute a special recognition in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.



© ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES

OLEKSANDR BABICH, *Mayor of Hola Prystan, Ukraine, 2023*

Standing for all imprisoned mayors of Ukraine.

ALLA MYRONOVA, *Mayor of Inhulka, Ukraine, 2024*

For the support provided to her community, particularly under Russian occupation.



© European Union / Jérôme Van Belle - WBI



©Bassam Aramin and Rami Elhanan

BASSAM ARAMIN and **RAMI ELHANAN**, *Parents Circle Family Forum, Palestine and Israel, 2025*

Their personal tragedies – loss of their daughters – became the inspiration for their fearless fight for justice and peace between Palestine and Israel.

MARY CRILLY, *Director of the Sexual violence Centre in Cork, Ireland, 2026*

For her life-long work in helping victims of sexual violence, raising awareness and improving victims' legal protection.



© European Union / Emile Windal

Launch of Nominations, Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award 2027

The 2027 Adamowicz Award is now open for nominations.



«The Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award celebrates the legacy of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk and CoR member, assassinated while defending local democracy, diversity, solidarity, with a resounding call for peace, reconciliation and reconstruction against a background of raging wars that tear communities apart.»
Kata Tüttő, CoR President

You can nominate candidates **until 31 October 2026** if you are:

- a group of 10 (ten) COR members, alternates and/or MEPs together
- an ICORN city or its representative body
- an international organisation (signed by a representative)
- any city or regional council (decision signed by the chair of the assembly or the 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



**European Committee
of the Regions**



**Publications Office
of the European Union**

Web
QG-01-26-022-EN-N
ISBN 978-92-895-4044-5
DOI 10.2863/0698519

Print
QG-01-26-022-EN-C
ISBN 978-92-895-4045-2
DOI 10.2863/9444036

© European Union, 2026



Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective copyright holders. Accordingly, you are required to clear additional rights if a specific content includes third-party works. Where permission is obtained, such permission shall cancel and replace the above-mentioned general permission and shall clearly indicate any restrictions on use.



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.

Edited by the European Committee of the Regions

Brussels, April 2026

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

@EU_CoR | /european.committee.of.the.regions | /european-committee-of-the-regions | @EU_regions_cities