Public Prosecutor General,

Mr. Zbigniew Tadeusz Ziobro

ul. Postępu 3

02-676 Warszawa

Poland

Dear Public Prosecutor General,

I am writing to express my deep concern about charges brought against human rights defender **Justyna Wydrzyńska** that appear to stem solely from her activism to support access to safe abortion.

Justyna has been charged with ‘helping in the performance of an abortion’ on the basis of Article 152.2 of the Polish Penal Code, and ‘possession of unauthorised drugs with the aim of introducing them to the market’ under Article 124 of the Pharmaceutical Law. If convicted, she faces up to three years in prison.

I am deeply concerned that charges against Justyna appear to be brought in reprisal for her activism and her legitimate efforts to defend access to safe and legal abortions in Poland.

Justyna is one of the founders of Abortion Dream Team, an activist collective in Poland that campaigns against abortion stigma. It provides evidence-based and non-biased abortion-related information, including on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance on safe self-managed medical abortion.

The laws that restrict access to abortions in Poland, and criminalise those who provide or help with an abortion, put pregnant people’s health and lives at risk. It also violates Poland’s obligations under international human rights law and standards.

It is precisely because of these harmful laws, that Justyna’s support to people whose health needs have been neglected and denied by the Polish health care system are crucial and can save lives. Her work should be applauded, not criminalised.

I therefore urge you to immediately drop all charges against human rights defender Justyna Wydrzyńska. Please refrain from bringing any other charges with the intention to criminalise her or other activists for providing lifesaving support to people seeking an abortion.

Yours sincerely,