

HELENA MIZINIAK

POLISH COMMUNITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

When I accepted the invitation to publish an article on the subject of the Polish diaspora in Great Britain in “Studia Polonijne” on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Research Centre for the Polish Diaspora and Polish Ministry at the Catholic University of Lublin, I realised that I would not be able to present exhaustively all the achievements of this distinguished Polish community in the British Isles. It is difficult to describe the life and activities of this Polish diaspora on just a few pages, not only because of the many years of activity and the diversity of their undertakings, but also because of the generational changes taking place, the changes in the status of emigrants and the changes in the global world in general. Over the centuries, on all continents of the free world, including the British Isles, the image of Poland and Poles living in their homeland and abroad has been created, and it has been different depending on the needs posed by historical challenges. The activities of particular circles also depended on the type of emigration. Economic migration after 1989 has had a different attitude to the country of origin than the previous ideological migration. It is therefore not possible to equate the commitment of these migration movements, because their starting point and assumptions were different.

It should be remembered that during the various historical periods of Poland’s tragedy, Great Britain had never been a country of large migrations waves from the Polish lands. This situation changed dramatically after the outbreak of the World War II. Beginning in 1939, waves of emigrating Poles made their way to the British Isles at various times until the end of the war. At the turn of 1945/1946, it was estimated that there were between 160,000 and 190,000 Polish emigrants on the territory of the United Kingdom, whose fate was not clearly defined. When on 5 July 1945 the British authorities

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withdrew their recognition of the Polish Government in Exile, it was clear that tens of thousands of Poles would not return to their homeland and that Poland would have to wait a long time to regain its true independence. This emigration community, which adopted the name “independence emigration”, knew that it would be necessary to fight long and persistently for it. This fight was announced in a message to the nations of the world by the Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile, Tomasz Arciszewski.

In order to coordinate joint activities and to establish a representation of the entire Polish community in Great Britain, the Federation of Poles in Great Britain was established on 24 February 1947, which, among other things, intervened before the British state authorities in political matters concerning Poland. This émigré community knew that it had its place and role in the drama of the nation whose freedom of thought, speech and action had been taken away. All contacts with representatives of the communist system were cut off. We presented the British society with an unadulterated picture of Poland – a country under the so-called “dictatorship of the proletariat”. In public speeches, we condemned the terror and repression with which the communist regime suppressed all demonstrations in Poland. We petitioned the British government for political and economic support for the underground opposition. We organised demonstrations, conferences and symposia. We conducted a wide-ranging publishing campaign, which was an arsenal for our ammunition in the fight for a free homeland. It is difficult in this short article to present a full picture of the struggle for independent Poland and the subsequent building of its image in the country of our residence. I will refer here only to a few events.

In connection with the persecution of the Church and the arrest of Primate Stefan Wyszyński, a Protest Action Committee was set up in the UK, which monitored the difficult situation of the Church in Poland on an ongoing basis. It organised protest actions not only in the UK, but also worldwide. A booklet documenting the situation of the church was published and distributed to delegates of countries attending the UN Assembly.

An event of great political significance was the organisation of a demonstration against the visit of Khrushchev and Bulganin to London. It was attended by 40,000 people. 50 thousand stamps were issued with the inscription **Freedom for Poland**. They were affixed to letters and sent not only to politicians and the British public, but also to politicians throughout the Western world. 50 thousand English-language leaflets “**The Soviet visit and**

Poles” were distributed. This demonstration, referred to as the **March of Silence**, was widely reported in the English-language press.

As news of the Poznań events spread, the Committee to Aid Poles in Poland was set up, raising funds to help victims of the Poznań events, and later on the coast, in Radom and Ursus.

The millennium celebrations in 1966. The Federation of Poles used the 1966 millennium celebrations to manifest our millennium-long connection to the Christian culture of the West and our right to full freedom and sovereignty. We demonstrated in 73 cities across the UK and centrally in London at White City.

We were the bearers of the truth about the Katyń massacre. In 1971, the Federation of Poles sent a memorial to the governments of 71 countries, 5 international organisations, British parliamentarians as well as members of the American and Australian parliaments, asking them to join in a worldwide action demanding the disclosure of the Katyń truth.

The first of the Katyń memorial monuments was unveiled in London in 1978.

In response to news that the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Poland had been amended to further subordinate Poland to Soviet Russia, demonstrations took place in many cities across the UK, with the main one in London at **Imperial College**. It was attended by British parliamentarians of all political persuasions. A letter from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was read out, and a resolution was passed informing the opinion of the free world of the new attempt to trample the Polish Nation by tightening the Soviet dictatorship. The Federation of Poles prepared a report on Poland’s failure to abide by the agreements made at the Helsinki Conference. It was forwarded to the signatories from 23 countries.

On hearing the news of the imposition of martial law in Poland in December 1981, a huge demonstration marched through the streets of London. A memorandum was sent to the British Prime Minister Thatcher demanding the introduction of sanctions against the communist authorities and the Soviet Union. Day and night there was a demonstration in front of the Embassy of the Polish People’s Republic. We petitioned all parliaments of the Free World for financial support for activists of the underground Solidarity movement. We launched a massive aid campaign joined not only by all Polish organisations, but also British companies, the society and the church. An organisation called Medical Aid For Poland was set up to provide medical aid.

All our activities stemmed not only from the need to show our national roots and emphasise our own values, but the main reason was to raise the status of our homeland. One of the most important elements uniting all Poles, irrespective of the type of emigration or their political views, was and still is attachment to the church, which is not only a tabernacle of God, but also an important centre of social life.

On all continents of the world, including on the British Isles, the Polish community used its own funds to buy and often built Polish churches and chapels – there are about 200 of them in Great Britain.

Until 1989, politics was one of the most important fields of activity, especially for the independence emigration. The changes in the country in 1989 presented us with a new challenge. Our many years of experience allowed us to quickly refocus and expand our activities to encompass the provision of economic aid and building a new image of Poland in the world.

The arrival in London of Lech Wałęsa in 1989 and Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki in 1990 marked the new opening of relations between Poland and Polish diaspora in the UK. In connection with Tadeusz Mazowiecki's appeal for material aid, the "**Help Poland Fund**" was established, and within a few months more than half a million pounds and 6 thousand dollars had been collected and transferred to Poland. At the same time, existing charities and new ones were springing up like mushrooms to help Poland.

At that time, some 6 thousand young Poles educated in the UK (most of them in the second generation) considered it their duty to help Poland in this transition period. Often at the expense of British organisations which supported democracy and the free market in Poland, such as the "Know How Fund" and "Westminster Foundation for Democracy", they came to Poland as advisers and experts. They helped to set up stock exchanges, privatise state enterprises, set up consulting companies and English language schools. Prof. Zbigniew Pełczyński organised leadership trainings for politicians and local government officials in Poland and in the UK.

The handing over of the insignia of the Second Republic of Poland by President Ryszard Kaczorowski to President Lech Wałęsa in December 1990 presented the Federation of Poles which represented the Polish community in Great Britain with new challenges. One of the most important was to create a strong Polish lobby for Poland's entry into NATO and the European Union, financial support for the country, providing care for newly arrived

emigrants from Poland and defence of the good name of Poland and Poles, which was at risk of being compromised.

The campaign started with a pre-election questionnaire to the British Parliament, which was sent to local MPs of all political persuasions across the United Kingdom. It contained a number of postulates ranging from economic, social and educational to geopolitical issues.

The Polish community in the UK was particularly active in urging British politicians to support Poland's accession to the EU and NATO. To this end, an organisation was established called "Poland Comes Home". In London, the campaign was launched in 1993 with a public meeting attended by the Vice-President of the European Commission, Leon Brittan, and the ambassadors of the Eastern European countries. Prior to the European Parliament elections, a packet was sent to the 364 British candidates entitled "Lobby in Support of Early Polish Membership of the European Union and NATO". To maintain British interest in Polish affairs, a quarterly magazine was published, entitled "Poland in Europe", which contained information on political stabilisation in Poland, economic reforms, the organisation of the Polish Army in preparation for NATO membership, respect for human rights, environmental protection etc. A special website was launched. Every day news about Poland was sent out in English by e-mail to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a whole range of influential persons. We organised a number of meetings throughout the UK and spoke out on the ratification of the Treaty of Nice. In 2003, on the initiative of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain, a conference was held in Warsaw with the participation of representatives of Polish organisations from countries already belonging to the European Union, at which we urged Poles to vote in favour of Poland's accession to the EU in a referendum.

As part of its work to defend Poland's good name, the Federation of Poles monitored the British press and forced corrections concerning historical truths, correcting false information about Poland, especially about Polish-Jewish relations before and during World War II. When a textbook for English secondary schools entitled *Twentieth Century World* was published in 2000, containing the statement that Poles collaborated with Germans in the murder of Jews, a general protest of the Polish community in the UK caused the publishing house not only to withdraw the publication from the market, but in the new edition it included information on the merits of the organisation *Żegota* in rescuing Jews. Currently, a campaign of constant monitoring, especially with reference to the misnomer "Polish concentration camps", is

carried out by the Polish Media Group, introducing many corrections each year in the English-language press all over the world.

Speaking of Polish-Jewish relations, it must be mentioned that the Polish community in the UK (PAFT) has donated 70 thousand pounds for the construction of the Jewish Museum in Warsaw.

For years, the Polish community in the UK has been seeking a firm stance from the British Government on the Katyń massacre. Our unyielding stance led British Prime Minister John Major to declare in 1995 that the Katyń massacre was committed by the NKVD. Ten years later, Denis MacShane the first UK minister attended the Katyń commemoration by the memorial monument at Gunnersbury Cemetery in London. We have also spread awareness of the Polish presence on the British soil by erecting permanent monuments at strategic points in the UK. I want to mention some of them below.

The Polish Air Force Memorial at Northolt in London – dedicated to the Polish airmen in the battle for Britain. Annual ceremonies with the air force remind us of the heroism and great contributions of the Polish airmen.

On 24 September 2000, the Duke of Kent unveiled a monument to General Władysław Sikorski, located in central London, opposite the Polish Embassy. He read a letter from the Queen Mother, an extract of which read: **“His Majesty King George VI and I held the General in high esteem because he was for us the personification of the spirit of fighting Poland.”** The bronze monument was erected thanks to the contributions from donors, including the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, Polish and British organisations and the Polish Foreign Ministry.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the handing over of the Enigma code by Polish cryptologists to the British intelligence, the first Polish Festival was held in Bletchley Park (followed by five more editions later), attended by the representatives of the Polish and British authorities. It began with the opening of an exhibition in English by Helena Miziniak, entitled “From Enigma to the European Union.” The 100 boards presented the history of the Polish nation from the breaking of the cipher, the transformation in 1989-1990, to Poland’s aspirations for membership in the European Union and NATO. At the ceremonial banquet, a representative of the British General Staff, Admiral West, said: “giving the secret of Enigma to the Allies was a generous gift from the Poles. It certainly shortened the course of the war by at least two years and saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers.” Three years later, in the same place, thanks to the generosity of the Polish community in the UK, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent unveiled a

plaque commemorating the Polish cryptologists Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Różycki and Henryk Zygalski. The plaque in Bletchley Park, which is visited by around 100 thousand tourists a year, will serve as a reminder of the historic importance of the Polish cryptologists in breaking the Enigma code.

The 25th anniversary of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union “Solidarity” was an opportunity to thank British trade unionists for their comprehensive assistance to Solidarity. Owing to the efforts of the Polish community in the UK and their financial contributions, we unveiled an obelisk in Ravenscourt Park dedicated to the memory of the great British friend of Poland and Poles, G.V. Hart. At St. Andrew Bobola Polish Garrison Church in London, we placed a commemorative plaque with the inscription “**Thank you for Solidarity**”, co-funded by Ms Joanna Fabisiak, MP.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Solidarity, we organised a two-day celebration, starting with the opening of a poster exhibition entitled “Solidarity – an ever-living legend”, which was visited by Prince Charles and his wife. His keen interest and knowledge was a pleasant surprise for us. The celebrations closed with a sentimental candlelit evening entitled “On those days full of hope”, followed by a public debate with British trade unionists and Polish activists represented by Jan Rulewski and Władysław Frasyniuk. The debate made us realise that despite the many positive developments in Poland, the issue of politics triggers many emotions.

On 19 September 2009, at the expense of Polish organisations abroad, in particular the Polish Combatants’ Association, and on the initiative of the Polish Heritage Society, a memorial to the Polish Armed Forces was unveiled at the Arboretum National Park in Staffordshire. There is also a memorial to the Poles in Wales in Wrexham Cemetery and a Katyń memorial plaque is embedded in the Anglican Southwell Minster in central England.

The celebrations of the 90th anniversary of Poland’s Independence Day were dominated by a march through the streets of London from Westminster Cathedral to Trafalgar Square in the accompaniment of the Polish Navy Orchestra. It was an impressive demonstration of Polishness in the British Isles attended by over 7,000 people of all generations. 10 years later, on the 100th anniversary of the Independence Day, the Albert Hall, London’s most prestigious concert venue, hosted a concert entitled “Łączy nas Niepodległa”. 500 people performed in front of an audience of 5,000.

On the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, the Polish Association published a leaflet in English with a circulation of 20,000. The leaflet was aimed at the British public and contained the historical truths of the

tragic events in Poland. The leaflet was distributed on 1 September 2009 in all parts of London.

Of course, we did not forget about the promotion of Polish culture. We have organised numerous concerts, exhibitions of Polish painters and sculptors, evenings of Polish poets and theatrical performances of our playwrights in English, Days of Polish Culture and Polish Festivals with historical, cultural, economic and culinary themes.

Poland's accession to the EU and the resulting avalanche of emigrating Poles has drastically changed our situation. The size and intensity of this wave cannot be compared to any previous emigration wave in Polish history. Hundreds of thousands of Poles arrived in the UK without financial resources, housing, a job or knowledge of English. Despite our very limited possibilities, as the Federation of Poles did not have its own hostels or substantial financial resources, we provided a very wide range of individual and organised help. The Federation set up a dedicated telephone and internet information line, several information brochures on "How to live and work in the UK" were published. We worked together with the trade unions to fight for equal working status for Poles. We also cooperated with British centres for the homeless. We arranged collections of money and clothing and organised traditional Christmas Eve parties. There were many individual, often very tragic cases, such as murders, suicides, tragic deaths and accidents with irreversible disabilities, people with no insurance. The Federation of Poles was like a second consulate, seeking to help those in need.

In addition to the wide spectrum of activities within the Federation of Poles, there operated many different charitable and aid organisations at parishes and other centres of the Polish diaspora life. In order to illustrate the scale of the assistance provided, I will focus on a few of them, with a similar profile and scope of activities. The figures presented here should provide a partial picture of the totality of our work and assistance provided to our compatriots.

Founded in 1946, the Association of Polish Women in Exile is the oldest organisation of its kind. It has made its mark in the history of Polish emigration life through its selfless and dedicated work. Both before and after 1989, it helped those in need abroad and in Poland.

In the early years, it took special care of single mothers, provided assistance to Polish children in Germany and helped Polish women arriving from Africa. It established the following sections: organisational, self-help, vocational training, cultural and educational, and youth welfare. It conducted courses for pupils who were unable to attend Polish Saturday schools. On-

going donations for a grammar school for Polish girls in Pitsfort and for scouts were added to the campaigns that were already in progress.

The Association of Polish Women kept a Living Diary and published "Women's Voice". Prior to the establishment of the Medical Aid for Poland Foundation, the Association of Polish Women sent medicines and medical equipment to Poland. It provided financial support for the establishment and later maintenance of homes for single elderly Poles in the UK: in Penrhos, Laxton Holl, Antokol, Father Maximilian Kolbe Centre, Sister Caroline of Jesus the Merciful Centre (support in recent years: over 300 thousand pounds).

Over the years, emigrant life stabilised to such an extent that the Association of Polish Women decided not only to increase aid to Poland, but also to extend it to help Poles in Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan.

In 1981, the Association of Polish Women initiated a campaign among the British society to provide help for mothers and children in Poland. As part of this campaign, 10 tonnes of clothing, baby care products and nutritional supplements for a total amount of 100,000 pounds were sent. Aid to Poland was directed, for example, to *Zdążyć z Pomocą* Foundation for children suffering from child cerebral palsy (40,000 pounds a year) and to the *Tęcza* Association for the blind and visually impaired (10,000 pounds).

To help flood victims at various times in Poland, the Association of Polish Women donated 180,000 pounds, while other Polish organisations with the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales raised and donated 1 million pounds to Poland. The sum of 40,000 pound was transferred by the Association of Polish Women to HMC Projects in Central and Eastern Europe, which was allocated for high school students – it provided tuition in private English schools for a period of 1 year. Seeing great opportunities for gifted students from Poland, the board provided financial support for over 5 years.

We also supported *Dzieło Nowego Tysiąclecia* Foundation, which helps to educate young people from poor families in Poland. Through the Foundation "Dla Polonii" at St. Stanislaus Kostka College in Warsaw, we have been providing scholarships for young people from the East studying in Poland for several years. We provide financial support for talented young people studying in Poland and in the UK, and have provided financial assistance for 10 Polish students from Kazakhstan and 3 from Ukraine. For years, we have supported competitions organised in Poland for children and young people

living abroad – “Być Polakiem” competition and the “Kresy” recitation competition.

We have also provided aid to hospices, centres for children and young people from pathological families, centres for the deaf and dumb, for families with many children, for the purchase of wheelchairs and orthopaedic beds, and rent payments for families facing eviction. We co-funded difficult surgical procedures for our compatriots, including the 9-month-old Peter from Belarus, Emilia Chmielowa from Ukraine and a boy in Australia (50 thousand pounds).

Every year we run a Christmas campaign, which involves about 40 centres and parishes in Poland at a cost of 40 thousand pounds a year. At Christmas time we also remember about our compatriots in the East. We send money to Vilnius, Bujwidze, Lviv, Grodno, Ivano-Frankivsk, to Russia and Kazakhstan (100 thousand pounds). For years we have been financially supporting the Blessed Michał Sopoćko Polish Hospice in Vilnius. We support financially Rev. Garda, who helps AIDS patients in Africa (10 thousand pounds).

With such a wide range of assistance, we do not forget about the needs of Polish communities in the UK. We donated more than 100 thousand pounds or the subscription of “Dziennik Polski” in Polish care facilities. We support the Polish Scouts, the Home Army Association, the Polish University Abroad, the Sisters of Jesus the Merciful, St. Andrew Bobola Church and many others. Together with the Polish Combatants’ Association and the M. Grabowski Foundation, we co-financed the Polish Language Department at the University of London.

We also help new migrants from Poland, for whom – through no fault of their own – their stay in the UK ended up in failure or was tragic: 24-year-old Jadzia was diagnosed with brain cancer after 2 months in London, 22-year-old Łukasz had an accident on a building site which resulted in leg amputation, Andrzej came to Poland to earn money to support his family but he had a stroke and was laying paralysed in the hospital, a student Jonata was in a critical condition after 6 operations in hospital due to a medical error after being infected with Sepsis, Andrzej M. was found unconscious in Putney Bridge – he did not know his name or how old he was. None of them had insurance. These are just a few examples of the support provided by the Association of Polish Women, which has donated 3 million pounds in recent years for such help.

The Relief Society for Poles (Towarzystwo Pomocy Polakom – TPP) was founded in 1948, when the Polish Red Cross authorities in London decided to transfer their tasks and financial resources to the newly established organisation. The profile of TPP was similar to that of the Association of Polish Women. TPP provides financial support to charities in the UK that work with the elderly and sick in Polish parishes. It closely cooperates with selected charitable organisations in Poland, such as the Polish Red Cross, “Pomóż Im” Foundation and “Lekarze Nadziei” Association, which runs an outpatient clinic for homeless people in Warsaw and Kraków. It provides patronage to the “Tęcza” organisation. It supports their activities with regular annual donations. For more details on TPP, see A.M. Stefanicka’s book “Spieszmy z Pomocą”.

The Medical Aid for Poland Foundation (MAPF), based in London, was established in 1981 in response to an appeal by Lech Wałęsa. It was founded by Poles supported by British friends. The Foundation sent 335 30-tonne lorries to Poland, each worth around 1 million zlotys, with medical equipment for hospitals, wheelchairs, prostheses, insulin pumps, 175,000 hearing aids and a number of other medical equipment. Baby food, clothing and cleaning products were also sent. Since 2002, MAPF has changed the way it provides aid: at the request of hospitals, centres or individuals, it finances the equipment ordered in Poland by bank transfer. The amount of donated aid exceeds 5 million pounds.

Finally, I wanted to write a few words about Julia Hykier - an Englishwoman who, between 1982 and 2009, not only raised funds but herself travelled to Poland many times with shipments of medicines, clothes and toys. She described her adventure with Poland in a book entitled “Friends of Poland”. In it, she describes Poles and English people who selflessly devoted their time and efforts to help those in need. Today there are also others who continue providing help and are worth remembering.

The new emigration that arrived in the UK after Poland’s accession to the EU also has a part to play in the life of the Polish community in Great Britain. Most emigrants are doing well in the job market, and through their professionalism they build a positive image of Poles in the country where they start a new life. They set up their own Polish and Anglo-Polish organisations, clubs, Polish media. They establish contact and cooperation with traditional organisations, become involved in expanding the network of Polish Saturday schools, strengthen the ranks of the scouting movement. They become involved in the life of Polish parishes, establish support, prayer and

music groups. Spontaneously, but consistently, they respond to the need of the moment, e.g. by joining the mourning march in honour of John Paul II – 15 thousand people marched through the streets of London with lit candles, they joined the worldwide action of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity. They are increasingly involved in organising the Polish Heritage Day in various cities of the UK and thus promoting Poland and Poles, as well as in organising and participating in Happy Children's Day at Laxton Hall organised every year by the Polish Catholic Mission and the Polish Educational Society. For several years they have organised the Polonia Ball, the proceeds of which are donated to Poland for a designated cause. They also organise Christmas Aid Pack for Poles in the UK who need help. I encourage researchers of the Polish diaspora to study the new emigration wave, to examine the reasons and motivations for their actions in their new homeland while still remembering about their actual Homeland.

In summary, with our full and all-embracing commitment to Poland, we built our position in the country in which we started to build a new life. We founded combatants' and social organisations, organised primary and secondary education on a largescale, such as Saturday schools, and supported higher education. We defended Polish culture with our uncensored literary and artistic output. Museums, libraries, galleries, theatres and Polish folk ensembles were established – they fascinate people not only with the richness of Polish folk costume, but with the whole spectrum of colours and regional diversity.

With our exemplary work and dignified life, we tried to convince the British society that we were a group of honest people, caring not only about our own wealth, but also the cultural and material goods of our new homeland. Over the years, our loyalty and professionalism have been appreciated. Today, in Great Britain, we have a whole plethora of educated people occupying prestigious positions at various levels of public and social life. By building our own image, we have been building Poland's image, and we can firmly say that we are worthy ambassadors of Poland in Great Britain.

POLISH COMMUNITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

Summary

The article presents the activity of Poles in Great Britain in the 20th century, beginning with the end of World War II, when a large group of Polish refugees and veterans settled in the UK. In 1947, the Federation of Poles was established to represent Polish community in Great Britain.

The Association of Polish Women (1946) and the Relief Society for Poles (1946) were also formed at the same time.

The article shows the involvement of the Polish community in Great Britain in the context of Polish history. This involvement included the organisation of anti-communist protests, carrying out various actions to inform people about the situation in Poland, organising material aid, supporting Poland at the time of the system transformation, and supporting Poland's accession to the European Union. Over the decades, the Polish community in Great Britain has managed to set up numerous veterans' and social organisations, Polish schools, it also built churches in order to preserve Polish culture abroad.

Keywords: Poles in Great Britain; Association of Polish Women; Federation of Poles; Relief Society for Poles.

POLONIA BRYTYJSKA

Streszczenie

W artykule ukazano działalność Polaków w Wielkiej Brytanii w XX wieku, począwszy od zakończenia II wojny światowej, kiedy liczna grupa polskich uchodźców i weteranów osiadła na terenie tego kraju. W roku 1947 w celu wyłonienia reprezentacji polskiego społeczeństwa w Wielkiej Brytanii powołano Zjednoczenie Polskie. W tym samym czasie powstały również Zjednoczenie Polek (1946) i Towarzystwo Pomocy Polakom (1946).

Pokazane zostało zaangażowanie brytyjskiej Polonii w kontekście historii Polski, które realizowano poprzez organizowanie protestów antykomunistycznych, prowadzenie różnego rodzaju akcji informujących o sytuacji w Polsce, organizowanie pomocy materialnej, wspieranie Polski w momencie transformacji ustrojowej, wspieranie przystąpienia Polski do Unii Europejskiej. Na przestrzeni dekad Polonia w Wielkiej Brytanii zdołała powołać liczne organizacje kombatanckie i społeczne, polskie szkoły, budować kościoły w celu zachowania polskiej kultury na obczyźnie.

Słowa kluczowe: Polacy w Wielkiej Brytanii; Zjednoczenie Polek; Zjednoczenie Polskie; Towarzystwo Pomocy Polakom.