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REFUGEES AS THE „SUSPECT COMMUNITY“. POLISH PUBLIC OPINION IN FRONT OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN THE PERIOD MAY 2015 – DECEMBER 2018

The purpose of this article is to analyze the results of a series of public opinion polls carried out by the Public Opinion Research Center in the period May 2015 – December 2018 which focus their attention on the attitudes towards refugees. I try to show that the admission of refugees in Poland has ceased to be seen as a kind of obligation to help this group whether from moral reasons, humanitarian (these people are found in the situation of war and ethnic persecution), legal (due to international agreements regarding the protection of their rights signed by Poland) or historical (in a sense of solidarity as we – Poles – were also refugees in the past). Refugees began to be seen primarily as a community that threatens us from the perspective of maintaining public security (threat of terrorist attacks), native culture (fear of religious fundamentalism and intolerant attitudes to other religions and customs, especially concerning women) and use of limited financial and social resources for our needy citizens.

Słowa kluczowe: uchodźcy, Polska, kryzys migracyjny, badania opinii publicznej, panika moralna

Keywords: refugees, Poland, migration crisis, opinion polls, moral panic