



International Commission for the Evaluation of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

You are invited to mark the Day of Freedom Defenders by a global civic initiative "The Memory is alive because it proclaims"

The civic initiative "The Memory is alive because it proclaims" induces us to remember January of 1991, when Lithuanian citizens, motivated by the striving of unity and freedom, achieved a historic victory. The nation resisted the aggression of the Soviet invaders and local collaborators and their attempt to exercise a takeover by military force and defended the independence of the restored state.

This year the civic Initiative "The Memory is alive because It proclaims" will be held for the 12th time in Lithuania. The commemoration takes on a special meaning and implication in the current geopolitical situation. 28 years ago, Lithuania was not a member of NATO and the EU, the occupying army was still within our territory, but the united nation, striving for freedom, defended Lithuania's independence in those days and resisted the aggressor. We believe that today as well, citizenship and a general commitment to defending our country is a cornerstone for holding back a potential aggressor. The upcoming commemoration of the Day of Freedom Defenders is a great opportunity to show not only to ourselves, but also to the whole world (as well as to potential aggressors) that today we are still united and ready to defend the freedom we have gained.

The civic initiative „The Memory is alive because it proclaims” in 2019 is organized on **11 January (Friday)**.

The symbol of the initiative is a candle which symbolizes life, light, justice, memory and unity.

Location: schools, educational institutions, institutions, organizations, houses of Lithuanian residents.

Date: 11 January 2019 (Friday).

Time of the civic Initiative: 8.00 - 8.10 a.m.

A proposal for the initiative:

A candle is placed in the middle of each window. The candles should be of several centimetres in height ensuring that the window frame does not block their flames. At 8 a.m. the lights are off for 10 min while the candles are on.

Remark: It is important to light the candles at the same time (8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.) ensuring the wavering of the candle flames all over Lithuania happen together. It does have a particularly effective view in the morning because it is still dark and many people, while rushing to work, will pay attention to them and will remember the importance of the day.

This civic Initiative has been organized since 2008, and at that time more than 100 schools organized the commemorations. The number of educational institutions and other institutions supporting this initiative is increasing every year. Since 2010 the initiative "The Memory is alive because it proclaims" has been actively supported not only by general education schools

in Lithuania, but also by the embassies of the Republic of Lithuania abroad as well as state institutions: the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Presidency of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, museums, libraries, hospitals, police commissariats, borderline guards and many other institutions and organizations. In 2018, more than 1300 organizations and institutions joined the initiative.

If you intend to join this civic initiative „The Memory is alive because it proclaims”, you have to sign up: <https://www.komisija.lt/renginiai/atmintis-gyva-nes-liudija-2/>

If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them, just contact us on **+370 706 63818**, **+370 706 63804** or by email: ingrida.vilkiene@lrv.lt, komisija@lrv.lt;

The organizer:

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