



## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE CRIMES OF THE NAZI AND SOVIET OCCUPATION REGIMES IN LITHUANIA

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### **On January 13, let us light the candles of unity, remembrance and victory**

The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania and the President of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Gitanas Nausėda invites Lithuanian educational institutions, state establishments, organizations, foreign embassies and all the people of goodwill to commemorate the civic victory against the aggressor thirty years ago and to join the civic initiative "Memory is Alive Because it Testifies."

**We invite you to light candles of unity, remembrance and victory all together in the windows all over Lithuania on January 13, 2022. At 8.00 a.m. for ten minutes.**

The civic initiative "Memory is Alive Because it Testifies" commemorates the January of 1991, when Lithuanian citizens, empowered by the pursuit of unity and freedom, achieved a historic victory. The nation resisted the aggression of the Soviet occupiers and local collaborators and their attempt to exercise a takeover by the military, and defended the independence of the restored state.

The victory of Lithuanian citizens against the aggressor in 1991 is the most outstanding event in the recent history of our country – it was an essential turning point in the path of restoration and consolidation of independence, determining not only the future of our country but also fundamental international geopolitical processes. In those days, the fates of all the nations and states enslaved by the Soviet empire were largely decided, and the future of Europe was largely decided. And we can be proud of this victory.

It was the victory of the Nation. And the Nation is not only the people who lived in that historical moment, but also the previous generation that laid the foundations for the pursuit of freedom – volunteers of independence struggles, post-war partisans and resisters – this is the generation that grew up in independent Lithuania.

In 2022, the civic initiative "Memory is Alive Because it Testifies" will be held in Lithuania for the fifteenth time. The initiative is supported by the President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda.

**The initiative's symbol is a candle, which symbolizes light, justice, memory and bonfires of freedom defenders.**

**Location: all across Lithuania**

**Date: January 13, 2022 (Thursday).**

**Time for 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 a few centimeters high to avoid the window frame blocking their flames. At 8 a.m., the lights are turned off for ten minutes, and the candles are lit. **Note.** It is important to light the candles at the same time (8.00–8.10) so that the candle flames flare all over Lithuania at the same time.

The civic initiative "Memory is alive because it testifies" has been organized since 2008. The number of educational institutions and other institutions supporting this initiative is growing every year. The initiative is actively supported not only by Lithuanian educational institutions, but also by state institutions: The President, The Seimas, The Government, ministries, embassies of the Republic of Lithuania abroad, municipalities, museums, libraries, hospitals, police commissariats, military and border guard units, institutions, organizations and citizens of Lithuania. Every year the initiative is supported by more than 1,500 educational and other institutions.

More information on [www.komisija.lt/en](http://www.komisija.lt/en).

**We kindly ask the ones who intend to join the civic initiative "Memory is Alive because It Testifies" to register:** <https://www.komisija.lt/en/renginiai/lets-commemorate-january-13-together-in-a-global-civic-initiative-memory-is-alive-because-it-testifies-2/>.

If you have any questions, we will be happy to provide more information at +370 698 42330, or e-mail.: [Ronaldas.Racinskas@lrv.lt](mailto:Ronaldas.Racinskas@lrv.lt) or [Ingrida.vilkiene@lrv.lt](mailto:Ingrida.vilkiene@lrv.lt)

**The initiative is organized and coordinated by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania.**

Respectfully,

Ronaldas Račinskas

Executive Director