

On Sunday, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves participated as the patron in an event acknowledging Estonia's volunteers at the House of the Brotherhood of Black Heads, where he thanked all volunteers, "I thank all the volunteers who have found the time and will to act and thereby have helped to educate themselves and the entire society!"

According to the Estonian Head of State, the majority of initiatives and decisions, which we are truly proud of today as a people and state, are the result of voluntary undertakings and not state coercion—bringing as historical examples the Finnish Boys, the schoolboys and teachers who volunteered for the War of Independence, as well as the first Estonian state flag, which was sewn by volunteers.

"The Estonian nation has examples to follow. And these examples are followed," said President Ilves. "Volunteer work continues to spread in Estonia. This is a prerequisite and sign of a healthy and strong society."

"I wish that we would be caring and attentive. This starts if only with an everyday friendly smile and a candid gaze directed at your compatriots," the President said in summary.

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