

## **Public Letter of Support from Latvian Non-Governmental Organizations to Member of the Finnish Parliament, Mrs. Päivi Räsänen**

**Dear Mrs. Päivi Räsänen,**

Latvian non-governmental organizations express their sincere support for You in connection with the judgment of the Supreme Court of Finland and the prolonged legal proceedings You have faced in relation to Your religious convictions and publicly expressed views.

With great respect, we have followed Your case, which in recent years has become a significant test of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of conscience not only in Finland but throughout Europe. We particularly appreciate your courage, steadfastness, and respectful conduct in defending the right to express Your convictions in a democratic society.

In our view, freedom of speech and freedom of religion form the foundation of a democratic society. Every person has the right to express their views based on their religious and philosophical convictions, including discussing matters of public importance and referring to religious texts.

Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights clearly establish the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, as well as the right to freedom of expression. Respect for these rights is essential to the existence of a democratic society.

At the same time, we are concerned about the growing tendency whereby, under the pretext of “hate speech,” freedom of expression and freedom of religion are being restricted in practice. There is a risk that complex and socially debated issues are being turned into “taboo” topics on which individuals can no longer freely express their views without fear of legal consequences. We believe that in a democratic society, even sensitive and controversial issues must remain open for discussion, with mutual respect and within the limits of the law.

Your case has become a significant precedent that may affect the boundaries of freedom of speech and freedom of religion across

Europe. Therefore, we consider this matter to be important not only for You personally but also for all European citizens who value the preservation of democracy and human rights.

We express our gratitude and support during this time and wish You God's peace in the path ahead, as well as wisdom and strength as You continue to defend freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of conscience.

With respect and appreciation,

Latvian Non-Governmental Organizations:

1. Association "Ģimene" (Family)



2. Latvian Philosophers' Association "Peripatos"



3. Association of Christian Medical Professionals



4. Association of Family Schools



5. Survival School Association



6. Association "ESMU DZĪVS" (I AM ALIVE)



7. Association BPI Drafts



8. The Union of Latvian Large Families



9. Association True Love Waits



10. Parents' Alliance



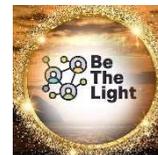
11. Latvian Men's Association



12. Family Development and Culture Centre "Alise"



13. Association Be The Light



14. Association Family Cradle



15. Association "UNIVERSUM"



16. Association Women's Resource Centre "Prieks" (Joy)

17. Foundation "Heritage"

18. Liepāja and Kurzeme Latvian Association

19. Association "Equality"

20. Association Light in the World

21. Association "Open Your Eyes"

22. Association Valles Barn

23. Association "Grieze Pastorate – Spiritual and Cultural Centre"