

Children and Young People Manifesto on Child Protection in Estonia

To the Government of Republic of Estonia

Family Day "Every Child Needs a Family", Paide, Estonia

04th June 2017

There is over 1.3 million people in the Republic of Estonia. This number shows how valuable every single child born here is. Family plays invaluable role in the development of each child. Family also plays a significant role in the child's future as a citizen.

Our children's and young people's faith in their own country and society is, above all, created by ourselves.

Estonia's face is the one of our homes and our families. It is through our families that we have the opportunity to create Estonia, its independence and prosperity over and over again. An independent state is a continuous creation in which we all participate equally.

We, today's Estonian children, do not want to remain indifferent to what will happen to our country and culture in the future. To develop good civil society in Estonia, we need the will, faith and care of our families.

We believe that every child's best interest is to grow up with its parents, but if this is not possible, a new caring family needs to be found.

We expect that the Government of the Republic of Estonia will prioritise during the EU presidency the needs of children in de-institutionalisation process, and will lay the basis for a true alternative care reform. A reform where at the forefront will unquestioningly be EACH CHILD'S individual needs and where close and permanent relationships with adults in any form of placement are guaranteed. For this, there is need for improvement of professional educational programmes that will support caregivers to meet individualised needs of children in alternative care.

We wish that the Government takes into consideration that the well-being and the needs of children and young people, especially those in care system without supportive environment, do not end the day they turn 18.

The Republic of Estonia, being a State that cares for its citizens, has to prioritise needs and interests of children and young people which are the weakest links of our population. Especially, it has to prioritise needs of youth care leavers without adequate support that transit into independent life. Ensuring decent housing is one of the first prerequisites for addressing the needs of these young people.

We invite all people to care for children without parental care and provide them with safe and loving relationships that would be lasting a lifetime.

We thank and acknowledge everyone who desire to help children left without parental care and birth homes.

Signed by:



Eesti Õpilasesinduste Liit
(Estonian Student Representative Union)



Ühise Eesmärgi Nimel
(For the Jointed Goal)



Paide Noortevolikogu
(Paide Youth council)



MTÜ Igale Lapsele Pere
(Family For Each Child)



Lapse Huvikaitse Koda
(Child Advocacy Chamber)