



MISSING PERSONS' FAMILIES SUPPORT CENTRE

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**INVITATION TO MENTION
INTERNATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY.**

In 2006 The Parliament of Lithuania, at the initiative of the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre, declared the recognition of 25 May as the International Missing Children's Day and included it in the list of memorable days in the Republic of Lithuania. From that time it is celebrated annually in order to attract public attention to this critical problem not only in Lithuania, but also worldwide.

Undoubtedly, the statistics show that the problem of missing children exists and it is truly shocking: the number of victims increases yearly, while the age of victims is constantly decreasing. According to data in 2014/2015, the number of missing children was as high as 1,448. Some of them are not attending the school and are declared as "missing". In general, the number of children declared as missing, and possibly included in the trafficking or other criminal acts, can only be guessed.

The lack of information and prevention is one of the main reasons why naïve and gullible children become an extremely easy "target" for this type of crime.

With the intention to raise public awareness about this issue, the *Missing Persons' Families Support Centre* identified the need for long-term prevention and decided to commission a sculpture in memory of missing children, to be placed in the square of the Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre, at Konstitucijos pr. 25, Vilnius, a popular area of Vilnius.

Some of the goals for commissioning this sculpture were: it is one way to remind us of those children who are already missing; it is intended that parents will become more aware of the potential threats and risks and will inform their children at an early age about those risks and ways to avoid them.

Every year on 25 May, the *Missing Persons' Families Support Centre* pays respect to this important day, honoring missing and abducted children while celebrating those who have been recovered.

As usual, this year the *Missing Persons' Families Support Centre* is organizing a warm celebration for the Community and children and invites you to mention this day.

The programme of events:

May 24th 9:50 a.m.:

-The distribution of attributes intended for mentioning the Day of Missing Children for the members of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania before the plenary session at the Parliament.

-Walking at Gediminas Avenue and distribution of the attributes of missing children for the people.

May 25th from 12:00 a.m. to 13:00 a.m.:

The mentioning of International Day of Missing Children near the sculpture for the Missing Children in the square of the Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre at Konstitucijos pr. 25, Vilnius.

May 25th from 15:00 a.m. to 17:00 a.m.:

Creative sessions for children and musical programme at the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (address: Žaliojių ež. g. 85, Vilnius).

Missing Persons Families Support Centre is kindly inviting you to mention this Day!

Director of Missing person's families support center
Natalja Kurčinskaja

