

Dear friends and fellow liberals,

Lithuanian Liberal Youth has recently organized a significant protest in response to alarming actions and statements by Lithuania's President, Gitanas Nausėda, which we believe undermine democratic values, political accountability, and respect for independent youth activism.

At the heart of the matter is the resignation of Gintautas Paluckas, Lithuania's first convicted Prime Minister, effective July 31, 2025. Paluckas stepped down amid a series of corruption allegations and ongoing investigations into financial misconduct involving his family's businesses. Notably, it emerged that Paluckas only fulfilled his court-ordered fine for financial crimes, imposed following his 2012 conviction for abusing his position in Vilnius city municipality, this July. This raises serious legal and ethical questions, especially given that the Lithuanian electoral code bars candidates from parliamentary elections unless they have fully served their sentences. Two protests were held in the past concerning the Prime Minister's reputation and his coalition with a left-wing populist party. Despite these concerns, President Nausėda expressed public support and trust for Paluckas, urging patience and even recommending a two week leave of absence to address the allegations. Societal pressure has played a role in Paluckas's resignation, which came just hours before the third protest — a demonstration we organized that had gained immense public attention.

Such favoritism is alarming considering the President's previous harsh criticisms of Lithuania's conservative-liberal government, revealing a clear political bias. Even more troubling are the openly disrespectful remarks made by the President's advisor, who disparaged Lithuanian Liberal Youth – an independent organization dedicated to advancing democratic values – as lacking morals and political integrity. The President subsequently endorsed these comments, further deepening concerns over his impartiality and proper etiquette.

In response, approximately one thousand citizens, social activists, youth leaders, and politicians gathered in our protest, calling on the President to uphold his duties responsibly and demonstrate moral courage. As an independent youth organization misrepresented by presidential rhetoric, we have formally requested clarification and a public apology to defend the reputation of Lithuanian Liberal Youth and other young civic actors.

Lithuania's future depends on leadership committed to accountability, transparency, and respect for all voices. Lithuanian Liberal Youth stands resolutely for these values and will continue reminding the President that society cares about what he is doing.

With best regards and a shared belief in democratic values,
Izdė Marcinkutė and Smiltė Domeikytė,
The President and International Officer of Lithuanian Liberal Youth