

## **Information by the government of Lithuania on the implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 20/2 on “Conscientious Objection to Military Service”**

In response to the call for inputs of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the quadrennial analytical report on conscientious objection to military service, in particular, on new developments, best practices, and remaining challenges, the Republic of Lithuania would like to provide the information related to the conscript service in Lithuania.

In 2015 due to the shifts in the geopolitical situation and aim to reinforce national defence capabilities, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a decision to reintroduce conscript service. Since then, each year, Lithuanian citizens of conscript age are enlisted to do military service for a period of 9 months.

Conscription procedure is carried out according to the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Military Conscription, which states that Draft list is being made up each year and includes male Lithuanian citizens of compulsory military service eligible age (18-23). For making a list, an automatic electronic selection system is used. Representatives of public organizations always observe this process to ensure transparency and objectivity.

According to the Lithuanian Law on Military Conscription, the conscript service may be postponed for these groups of people:

- 1) members of the Seimas (the Parliament), the Government, the European Parliament and Municipal Councils;
- 2) judges;
- 3) public prosecutors;
- 4) members of the internal service system;
- 5) intelligence officers of the State Security Department of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 6) officials of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 7) officers of the Security Service of the Command of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 8) suspects and accused in criminal proceedings or those serving a sentence which prevents them from performing compulsory initial military service, as well as those who have served a custodial sentence;
- 9) raising a minor child alone;
- 10) pregnant women;
- 11) sole guardian of a disabled person or guardian of a person with reduced capacity;
- 12) members of religious communities or societies who, in accordance with the canons or other rules of these religious communities or societies, have been elected or appointed to pastoral work;

- 13) their spouses or cohabitants during pregnancy and maternity leave;
- 14) who have two or more children under the age of three years;
- 15) who would suffer disproportionate harm to his personal or public interests as a result of conscript service.

Lithuania provides a suitable Alternative National Defence Service. For those conscripts who are unable to serve with a weapon because of their religious or pacifist convictions.

Recruits wishing to perform Alternative National Defence Service have to write an application for Alternative National Defence Service. This request should be based on religious or pacifist convictions that preclude service with arms.

A special commission examines the applications for Alternative National Defence Service and provides recommendations to the national defence system authority administering military conscription. Conscripts shall perform Alternative National Defence Service in state or municipal institutions by performing public utility work. Alternative National Defence Service duration is ten months.

Three conscripts were assigned to perform the Alternative National Defence Service in 2021. This number will increase in the near future.