

## What is solidarity?

Solidarity is more than just a name, term or concept. Nowadays this word is so “worn out” that it begins to lose its meaning slowly. Dignitaries use this term in their speeches just because it is trendy and the term is used throughout Europe. But do they really understand the real meaning of the term solidarity?

Solidarity is helpfulness – helping others in distress. As a striking example is the solidarity of Europe to the Japanese people after the nuclear explosion in March, 2011. European nations not only expressed sorrow in word but also gave its humanitarian aid to the victims of this disaster. However the solidarity in the society is quite spread. But in the negative sense. Who will sit the first when getting on the bus, train or tram? Pregnant women? Women with small children? The elderly? No, none of the options mentioned above is correct. Young people sit the first in chairs, as well as elderly men and women. It shows a lack of understanding, support for each other in the society. People are shrinking into themselves and even do not notice that someone around needs exactly their help.

Also, there is still inequality in our society. In a conference politician Vaidere, shared her experience in politics as a woman. One president skipped Vaidere while greeting the representatives of other countries in an official meeting. Just because a politician is a woman. Not only politics but also the business niche is felt in the inequality between the sexes.

Although the progress in all fields of life have grown, but still women are paid less than men working in the same positions. There is a lack of solidarity in these areas, where all are equal. But in my opinion the base of all is love. Love to others. Because love includes everything that includes the word solidarity - helpful and the help, understanding and support, friendship and unity. Once a woman with two children visited Lithuania. To get back to Latvia, to their home, she and her children had to stand in a long row for tickets. But the Lithuanians did not allow it and let the woman in the front of the row, because they believe that a woman with children is a priority and she does not need to stand such a long row. Here, it is solidarity not only between individuals but also between nations and people. No matter where you come from - everyone deserves to receive solidarity from others, as well as give it to others.

Society should be solitaire because only together we are the strength. And the strength and good thoughts, as we know, can achieve many good things. Solidarity should not dominate only in our speeches but also in our hearts but the most important – in our actions!