



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

Dear expatriate Finns,

We celebrate our Independence Day at a time of turmoil in the world. The international order is in transition and wars and crises fill the news. At times like these, being far from home can evoke a range of emotions.

In times of uncertainty, we Finns must remain calm and collected. We are not only the happiest people in the world. We are also tenacious and perseverant. This strength of character will prevail even after years spent abroad. I know this from my own experience, having lived abroad for almost 20 years.

You are all Finland's representatives abroad. It's thanks to you that our unique country is known near and far. You can be proud that you are Finland's window to the world.

Being Finnish is not tied to time or place. Some of you have been living abroad for a short time, others for longer. Some of you have been building your lives abroad for decades, even a generation.

Regardless of different life situations, we are united by emotional ties to Finland and the values and traditions that are important to us. There is more than one way of being Finnish. The diversity of being Finnish is a great asset for our country. Despite the distance, we all get to celebrate the success story of an independent Finland.

I wish all expatriate Finns and people of Finnish heritage around the world a happy Independence Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexander Stubb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Alexander Stubb
President of the Republic of Finland