

Zuzana Čaputová
President of the Slovak Republic

At Bratislava, on 14 May 2024

Dear Mrs. Marta Györiová, distinguished members of the ESTER association, distinguished participants of the conference of Jewish women,

It is my pleasure to cordially welcome you to Bratislava which has the honour to host your meeting for the first time; and to extend my greetings to your meeting. I know that you have come from many corners of the world to our capital with one goal – to talk about religious tolerance, dialogue, education and support of tolerance between cultures.

In the today's complicated and often clashing world, these values and themes are of utmost relevance. We witness that in many societies, they are challenged and trampled upon, that intolerance is winning and, in place of dialogue, we observe polarized monologues and hatred towards those who are somehow different.

The motto of your conference is FROM TRADITIONS TO THE FUTURE. It is important that you, Jewish women, whose ancestors experienced the greatest tragedy of the 20th century, are committed to ensuring that these historical experiences and tragedies bring us to humanism, respect for human dignity and effective protection of human rights; including improvement of the position of women in our society.

These values have also been the central motive of my five-year mandate as President of the Slovak Republic, which will end in a few weeks. However, my service to the values I believe in does not end there.

Dear participants of the conference, I wish you an inspiring meeting and, first of all, that your efforts at making our common world a more beautiful and tolerant place for life become a reality,