# CALENDAR 2027

AD PACEM SERVANDAM

POUR LA PAIX ET CONTRE LA GUERRE



## ESTONIA

## CAUGHT BETWEEN EUROPE AND RUSSIA

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With this calendar, our association 'Ad Pacem servandam – For Peace and Against War' aims to preserve the memory of past wars and promote peace and tolerance amongst the peoples of Europe. We advocate **the idea of peaceful coexistence among the peoples of Europe**, which traces its origins back to the **founding fathers and pioneers of the European Union (EU)** following the Second World War: Konrad Adenauer, Alcide De Gasperi, Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet. They laid the foundations for an economic and political community intended to serve as a model of peace for the peoples of Europe. On the European continent, therefore, peace and security remain closely linked to the freedom and self-determination of its peoples.


Natalya Voronkova, founder and director of VOLUNTEERS' HUNDRED

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which began in 2014, threatens this European model of peace. Russia's ideologues and rulers are pursuing the goal of militarily reclaiming the territories in Europe that were lost in 1991. Russia has therefore set its sights on Eastern European and Baltic states that are members of both the EU and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

**Using Estonia (a member of the EU and NATO)** as an example, this calendar aims to illustrate the historical and geostrategic motives behind Russia's actions, **which threaten peace in Eastern Europe and the Baltic states**. It describes **the history of suffering endured by the Estonian people**, who were part of the Russian Tsarist Empire in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries and lived under Soviet rule for decades in the 20th century before regaining their independence in 1991. A minority of Estonia's inhabitants, particularly in the east of the country, still identifies as Russian today and continues to speak the Russian language.

The publishers of this calendar are convinced that Moscow has already drawn up plans to annex all or part of Estonia. They believe that Russia is merely waiting for favourable geopolitical circumstances to put these plans into effect, just as in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

**The monthly entries accessible via the QR codes** recount the centuries-long subjugation of the Estonian people. They commemorate German, Soviet and Estonian soldiers, as well as Estonian resistance fighters and civilians, who died in their own country or during deportation to the Gulag in Siberia during the Second World War and up until 1991, or whose fate remains unknown.



Map of the countries bordering the Baltic Sea; Estonia with its main cities

It was not until 1991, amid the collapse of the Soviet Union, that Estonia regained its independence and the Estonian people regained their freedom. In view of Russia's expansionist policies, Estonia is now compelled to secure and strengthen its defences. Relative to its population, Estonia is also among the leading European providers of aid to Ukraine, supporting the country's defence and its efforts to restore its full territorial integrity.

The coming years will show to what extent the NATO military defence alliance will continue to safeguard Estonia's independence.

Russia's brutal and devastating bombardments of Ukrainian towns and villages show no respect for human life. They kill and injure civilians and force people to flee their homes on a daily basis. As in previous years, a key aim of the calendar is to **help Ukrainian victims of Russia's war of aggression**.


21 suitcases symbolising the many forced departures of Estonians


The Estonian flag alongside the EU and NATO flags

**All proceeds from sales of the 2027 calendar** will go to the Ukrainian non-governmental organisation **„VOLUNTEERS' HUNDRED"** (ВОЛОНТЕРСЬКА СОТНЯ ДОБРОВОЛЯ). It supports mobile hospitals in the Donetsk region by providing medicines, equipment and other essential supplies to ensure uninterrupted aid close to the front line. This enables medical professionals to save lives under extremely difficult conditions. Further information is available via the QR code on this page.

**The selected photographs** in this calendar, all taken in 2026, bear witness to the significant historical and cultural heritage and the beautiful natural landscapes of this small Baltic state (population 1.3 million, area 45,339 km²).

**The QR code** beneath each monthly photo provides further information in the form of text, photos, videos and interviews recorded on location. An asterisk next to a historical event listed on the calendar indicates that additional information is available via the corresponding QR code.

**On the cover**: Narva Castle, in the Estonian city of Narva (left), and Ivangorod Fortress, in the Russian city of Ivangorod (right), face each other across the Narva River, which forms the border between the two countries.