



26 February 2024

To whom it may concern,

Re: Letter of Recommendation for NGO, ESRA

It is my pleasure to submit my recommendation of ESRA as deserving of the President's Award for Volunteerism, in light of its tremendous contribution in absorbing and integrating new immigrants into Israeli society whether during ordinary times or times of crisis.

ESRA works in exemplary collaboration with the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption. It helps immigrants who are Russian-speaking, English speakers, or speak Amharit, particularly those aged 65 and over who have difficulties in everyday functioning, as well as emotional problems regarding acclimation to their new Israeli environment due to language, cultural and social differences.

For these immigrants, ESRA represents a holistic lifeline, a safety net, and an anchor to hold on to during their process of absorption into Israeli society. ESRA provides them with a community network that includes social and cultural activities, introduction to heritage sites around the country, improvement of coping skills and familiarity with municipal authorities. In short, ESRA supports new immigrants personally, emotionally, and financially.

During the past year, ESRA organized hundreds of activities, from holiday celebrations to lectures, tours to workshops, and cultural events to enrichment activities. Together with this, ESRA works to minimize socio-economic and educational gaps among immigrants by developing and running community projects.

With the outbreak of war, ESRA worked to provide for the unique and urgent needs of immigrants. As part of its emergency agenda, thousands of immigrants benefitted from special activities and services, and hundreds received urgent financial aid.

The activities of ESRA are an inspiration and a model to be replicated. Its activities contribute a great deal to optimizing the absorption and integration of new immigrants into Israeli society. ESRA's recruitment to this task is deserving of every accolade. I therefore warmly recommend presenting the President's Award for Volunteerism to ESRA.

Respectfully,

Avichai Kahana, General Manager  
Ministry of Immigration and Absorption