



Kaja Kallas
HRVP designate

Kaja Kallas was the Prime Minister of Estonia from January 2021 until July 2024.

She was the leader of the Reform Party since 2018, and a Member of Parliament from 2019 to 2021, and previously from 2011 to 2014.

From 2014 to 2018, Kallas served as a Member of the European Parliament (representing the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe), where her primary focus was on the Digital Single Market strategy, energy and consumer policies.

Before entering politics, she was an attorney-at-law, specialising in European and Estonian competition law, and a partner in two law firms. She has graduated from Tartu University law school in 1999 and has studied in Estonian Business School.

Under her leadership the Reform Party won two consecutive elections and she became the first woman Prime Minister of Estonia. She has been a strong advocate for human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Her government introduced the same-sex marriage in 2023. In addition, her focus has been on strengthening European defence, as under her leadership

the defence spending of Estonia rose from 2,03 % to 3,43% of the GDP. As Prime Minister she initiated and pushed for several policies within EU in support of Ukraine (establishing accountability for Russia's war crimes, frozen assets, a million rounds initiative for Ukraine) and for boosting European defence readiness.

Prime Minister Kallas has been awarded the following awards: the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Ukraine, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Romania, Grand Cross of the Order of the White Rose of Finland, Commander Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Polar Star (Sweden), Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise of the II degree (Ukraine), Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Romania, CEPA Transatlantic Leadership Award, the 2022 Grotius prize, the Hayek International Prize, European Prize for Political Culture, 2nd Class Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise (Ukraine, 2023), the Commander Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Polar Star (Sweden, 2023), the Marion Dönhoff Prize, the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award of the International Republican Institute, the Lord Byron International Prize, the L'Express Europe Award, the European Liberal of the Year, the Woman in Power Award (Women of Europe Awards). In 2024 Kaja Kallas was awarded the Walther Rathenau Prize.