



**Greetings
from
the President of Iceland
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**

For centuries fear and ignorance, prejudice and hostility dominated the attitudes towards mental illness and those who suffered were condemned to isolation.

We have in recent years been blessed with a profound improvement in this field and in our country we have witnessed strong confirmation of such radical change.

The work of Club Geysir has gained national attention and the public has rallied to its cause. The inspiration and vision provided by Club Geysir has given many people hope and a new sense of achievement. It has helped to transform the general attitude towards mental health, giving a new confidence to many and enabling them to become active and productive citizens.

The support which the nation has given to Club Geysir was manifested in a nationwide campaign to raise funds for its work and build up the financial strength to enable it to obtain a permanent residential centre. Households all over the country, children and grandparents, the affluent but also the poor, farmers and fishermen, businessmen and officials all contributed to the success of this campaign, leaving us in no doubt about the strong democratic support that Club Geysir has earned.

We hope that the achievements of Club Geysir will inspire our friends in other countries and enable us to improve the opportunities open to those seeking to better their mental health.

The success of Club Geysir fills us with hope and inspiration.

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