

**Appeal of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine  
on Education, Science, and Innovation  
to the universities of democratic countries of the world**

Today, Russia is waging an aggressive war against Ukraine, destroying Ukrainian nation, killing civilians and raping women. Millions of Ukrainian citizens are forced to leave their homes and become refugees because of indiscriminate attacks affecting the civilian population and civilian objects. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, parliaments of Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Czech Republic, Ireland and Canada, have already recognized the Russian actions in Ukraine as genocide against the Ukrainians. That is why today we need decisive action from our partners in education and scientific areas to stop the war.

Tens of thousands Russian students study abroad. In recent years, this trend is growing. Many children of Russian politicians and journalists who openly spread the idea of «Russian World» (Russkiy Mir) have studied or continue to study at European or American universities. The daughter of Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesperson, graduated from the Paris Business School. The daughter of Russian MP and former host of propaganda TV shows, Petro Tolstoy, continues to study at Yale university.

Some European universities have expressed support and sympathy for Russians and Belarusians.

We believe this is unacceptable because 81% of Russians support Russia's military aggression against Ukraine;

Ukrainians today are in similar conditions as Jews during World War II, and Russians and Belarusians are like Nazis and fascists. How can you put the aggressor and the victim in the same conditions? How can Cain be given the opportunities and rights of Abel?

More than 50 top universities in Europe and the United States have already officially condemned the Russian war in Ukraine. Some of them terminated international treaties with Russia, stopped educational and scientific projects. To support Ukraine, students and graduates of the best foreign universities, including University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, organise protests, perform in the media, and collect humanitarian aid for Ukraine. For example, Stanford University has already suspended its \$ 1.6 million deals with Russia, and Germany and Denmark have suspended partnerships with Russian research institutes. Some government officials, including California Republican Eric Swalwell, offered that exclusion of Russian students from US universities as one of the sanctions against Russia.

Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, enemies have ruthlessly destroyed educational and scientific infrastructure: more than 1900 educational institutions: kindergartens, schools, colleges, institutes and universities have already been destroyed or severely damaged. The Russian occupiers are burning books, forcibly forcing children to move to Russia, and

forcing children to study in Russian on occupied territories. They continue to kill peaceful Ukrainians every day.

**That is why we call on the world's universities that uphold democratic values, the respect for human rights, and the need to preserve human life and health:**

1. to terminate international cooperation with educational and scientific institutions of Russia and Belarus
2. not to provide any educational benefits to students from Russia and Belarus;
3. to take appropriate measures (including exclusion) against Russian and Belarusian students who publicly support Russia's war in Ukraine;
4. to stop recognizing Russian diplomas given to foreign citizens in 2022 and beyond due to Russian universities' ignoring of common human, civilizational and democratic values;
5. to provide benefits and educational grants for Ukrainian citizens who are currently fighting for democracy, peace, and freedom in the world as part of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and law enforcement agencies of Ukraine;
6. to establish direct partnerships between foreign universities and local communities with Ukrainian universities to promote the reconstruction and modernization of Ukrainian post-war educational institutions and the establishment of patronage institute (long-term partnerships, sponsorships, sister universities, Twinning Initiative programs) over individual institutions of higher and professional higher education in issues of their reconstruction and development;
7. to lobby for the opening of additional financial instruments and technical assistance and access of Ukrainian universities to existing education and science funding programs.

We call for an immediate ending of cooperation with Russia - the aggressor country and Republic Belarus. Without your unity with the Ukrainian people today – tomorrow may not come!