

Resolution on expressing solidarity and demanding action regarding Russia's war in Ukraine

Adopted at the Council and Members 2023 on the 3rd and 4th December 2022

The **Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions** (OBESSU), the platform of 35 School Student Unions all over Europe, condemns the terrorist state of Russia and their military actions¹ and we are horrified by this act of aggression and the impact it is having on Ukraine's school students and youth as well as the population at large - their security and their livelihoods.

We have fought for decades to protect the civil space of school students and democracy in Europe, and now we see that the Russian Federation has entirely abandoned these principles. An entire region's peace and stability, as well as everyone's security, is at risk from open hostility and the potential violent overthrow of a democratic administration.

The Ukrainian government declares that because of shelling and firing of Russian missiles, more than 2700 schools were damaged², completely destroying 332 to this day. Intentionally attacking any civilian infrastructure is a war crime³. Furthermore, according to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights⁴. Everyone has the right to education, the inhuman action by the Russian Federation totally abuses those rights. It is nearly impossible to ensure safe quality education in Ukraine. As of now more than 2 million school students have fled the country because of large scale armed aggression of armed forces of the Russian Federation. Consequently, refugee students cannot take the maturity exam (вступні на бакалаврат) exam based on the Ukrainian education system.

¹<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221118IPR55707/european-parliament-declares-russia-to-be-a-state-sponsor-of-terrorism>

²<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/10/ukraine-attack-civilians-and-infrastructure>

³ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, article 8, part 2, point A, part iv and point b, part ii and iii
<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/war-crimes.shtml>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>



We must fight for democratic values while also establishing tranquil schools and neighborhoods for all school students. **Therefore, OBESSU has a responsibility to speak up when school children's rights to education, democracy, and peace are violated. The current events have us utterly shocked, and we agree that a rapid de-escalation and long standing support for Ukrainians is urgently needed.**

Therefore, in these times of austerity and economic crisis, we believe that national governments in Europe must give top priority to quality education and integration for Ukrainian school students.

OBESSU Demands to equally assure:

- Access to psychological support in the language that the school students feel comfortable consulting in.
- Accessible consultations on questions of career and curriculum in the understandable language.
- Infrastructure and equipment, including digital infrastructure, to study on the online learning platforms of Ukraine's national curriculum.
- That schools offer space for cultural exchange by refugee students to foster understanding and raise awareness for their cultural background and political situation/context intentionally.
- An accessible non-formal education⁵.
- Safe spaces⁶ in schools which refugees are attending.
- Provide the information and basic skills of fact checking for the school community including teachers and students.
- That relevant European institutions would seek to hold the Russian Federation accountable for the crimes against humanity and the violation of the rights of Ukrainian school-children.

We stand together with Ukraine and Ukrainian people, *Слава Україні!*

⁵ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/definitions>

⁶ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/safe-space>



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