

Association of Ukrainians  
in Great Britain



Союз Українців у  
Великій Британії

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The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Dear Secretary of State

Ukrainians and those of Ukrainian descent living in the UK are grateful to you, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Prime Minister for your strong support for Ukraine, the significant aid you have already provided and for your efforts to secure a diplomatic and peaceful solution to Russia's demands and threats towards Ukraine.

However, it is clear that the window for diplomacy has closed. Russia has been at war with Ukraine for eight years, has already illegally occupied Ukrainian territory in Crimea and in Eastern Ukraine and has been the direct cause of over 14,000 military and civilian deaths, leaving over 1.4 million people displaced from their homes. Its attacks on Ukraine have intensified: through blatant disinformation, false flag attacks and direct attacks on the civilian population of Eastern Ukraine and on critical infrastructure, including electricity, gas and water supplies.

The Kremlin's formal recognition today of its proxy self-proclaimed separatist 'Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics' will allow it to openly advance its troops still further into Ukraine – and the tone of President Putin's speech shows that he has no intention of stopping his attempt to recreate the Soviet Union. Belarus is now a Russian military base, with thousands of troops threatening Kyiv and Ukraine from the north, as well as closing in on the borders of NATO members.

As you will be well aware, the scope for prolonged military threats and potential further aggression is very real and the consequent humanitarian disaster would be unimaginable. History shows us that Russia's invading forces will have no regard to the safety and human rights of the civilian population, that the death toll will be significant and that war crimes will be committed.

As President Zelensky said at the Munich Security Conference, Ukraine will defend its land and has indeed been a reliable shield for Europe for the last eight years. But he also

made clear that Ukraine has the right to demand a shift from a Western policy of appeasement to action which will ensure real security and peace guarantees.

We believe that it is time for the UK Government and its NATO partners to act without further delay, as Russia is intensifying its war against Ukraine now. We therefore fully support Ukraine's Foreign Secretary Dmytro Kuleba who has called for immediate sanctions, including to:

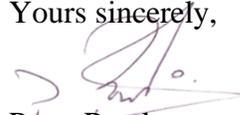
- ensure that the OSCE monitoring mission is returned to full strength so that continued acts of aggression by Russia are fully documented and fake news dispelled
- impose immediate sanctions on Russian banks and businesses operating in the UK and stop them from trading and supporting the Russian economy
- freeze all the property and assets of Russian oligarchs in the UK
- exclude Russia from the SWIFT banking system
- urge all members of NATO to impose similar sanctions now on Russian banks and businesses
- put in place, jointly with NATO partners, a package of providing Ukraine with increased defensive military support in the event of a further incursion of Russian forces into Ukraine's sovereign territory
- introduce legislation to put an immediate visa ban on all Russian state sponsored sports and cultural groups from entering the UK.

President Zelensky also raised the issue of the Budapest Memorandum, to which the UK was a signatory, which guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in return for relinquishing its nuclear arsenal. What is not clear is where the UK stands on the Budapest Agreement and fulfilling its side of the agreement, along with the US and Russia. President Putin has shown that he has no regard for international agreements but it would be a tragedy if lack of action made the Budapest Agreement totally meaningless, in the same way that President Putin has now made the Minsk Accords meaningless.

Any apparent lack of resolve from the international community will simply allow President Putin to continue acting with impunity – as he has done since coming to power. As President Zelensky said at the Munich Security Conference, aiding Ukraine is not an act of charity but an investment in the peace and security of Europe.

We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss the concerns of the Ukrainian community in the UK and what further action the UK Government will take to secure Ukraine's sovereignty and democratic future.

Yours sincerely,

  
Petro Rewko  
Chairman

  
Fedir Kurlak  
CEO

Copy of letter to:

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP - Prime Minister  
The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP - Secretary of State for Defence  
The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP - Chair of the Defence Select Committee  
The Rt Hon Mark Pritchard MP - Chair of the APPG on Ukraine  
Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP - Leader of the Opposition  
David Lammy MP - Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
John Healey MP - Shadow Secretary of State for Defence

*The Association of Ukrainians is the largest organisation of Ukrainians and those of Ukrainian descent in Great Britain and has represented the Ukrainian community in Great Britain since 1946.*