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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Ukraine: human rights and humanitarian law must be respected

Written declaration No. 739

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The conflict in Ukraine, as a result of an aggression decided by the Russian authorities, is a serious violation of international law. This does not change the obligation to respect human rights, as the European Court of Human Rights underlined on 28 February 2022 when it indicated urgent interim measures to the Government of the Russian Federation.

International humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, designed for conflict situations also applies, as recently recalled by the Parliamentary Assembly (Resolution 2407 (2021)). It implies, in particular, the following obligations for parties to a conflict:

– prohibition on targeting civilians;
– protection of non-combatants (civilians, health and humanitarian personnel) and persons out of combat (wounded soldiers, prisoners);
– the right of civilians to have access to humanitarian assistance and for their homes to be spared as well their life-sustaining possessions;
– care for the sick and wounded, regardless of which side they are on;
– prohibition of attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and hospitals;
– prohibition of the use of rape and sexual violence.

The signatories call on all parties, in particular the Russian Federation, to respect these obligations.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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