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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:

COTTIER Damien, Switzerland, ALDE
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ABRAHAM Knut, Germany, EPP/CD
ANASTASSOV Stanislav, Bulgaria, ALDE
ANTONIAZZI Tonia, United Kingdom, SOC
ARSLAN Sibel, Switzerland, SOC
BADIA José, Monaco, EPP/CD
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
BAUMANE Krista, Latvia, ALDE
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BECHT Olivier, France, ALDE
BILALLI ZENDELI Arta, North Macedonia, SOC
BONELL Mònica, Andorra, ALDE
BÜCHEL Hubert, Liechtenstein, ALDE
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CORLĂȚEAN Titus, Romania, SOC
DE TEMMERMAN Jennifer, France, ALDE
DIMITRUSHEVA Ekaterina, Bulgaria, NR
DURANTON Nicole, France, ALDE
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
ENGELHARDT Heike, Germany, SOC
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC
FOURNIER Bernard, France, EPP/CD
FRANÇAIS Olivier, Switzerland, ALDE
FRICK Peter, Liechtenstein, ALDE
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GASIU-K-PIHOWICZ Kamila, Poland, EPP/CD
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD
GOUTTEFARDE Fabien, France, ALDE
GRAAS Gusty, Luxembourg, ALDE
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
GROZA Ion, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GUGGER Niklaus-Samuel, Switzerland, EPP/CD
GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio, Spain, SOC
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
HAMID Hamid, Bulgaria, ALDE
HASLER Thomas, Liechtenstein, ALDE
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE
HOOP Franziska, Liechtenstein, ALDE
HORGA Maria-Gabriela, Romania, EPP/CD
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
IVANOV Hristo, Bulgaria, NR
JONES Ruth, United Kingdom, SOC
KAIRIDIS Dimitrios, Greece, EPP/CD
KAMOWSKI Catherine, France, ALDE
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KÖCK Eduard, Austria, EPP/CD
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC

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

LE NAY Jacques, France, ALDE
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese, Latvia, EPP/CD
LINK Michael Georg, Germany, ALDE
LLOYD Tony, United Kingdom, SOC
LOPATKA Reinhold, Austria, EPP/CD
LORSCHÉ Josée, Luxembourg, SOC
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
LOUIS Alexandra, France, ALDE
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MAIRE Jacques, France, ALDE
MARRA Ada, Switzerland, SOC
MARTÍNEZ FERRO María Valentina, Spain, EPP/CD
MASIULIS Kęstutis, Lithuania, EPP/CD
MASSEY Doreen E., United Kingdom, SOC
MEZENTSEVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
MILON Alain, France, EPP/CD
MODERT Octavie, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
MONIZ Paulo, Portugal, EPP/CD
NIKOLOSKI Aleksandar, North Macedonia, EPP/CD
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PAHLKE Julian, Germany, SOC
PIPILI Foteini, Greece, EPP/CD
PRIOTEASA Ion, Romania, SOC
REISS Frédéric, France, EPP/CD
SAVICKAS Lukas, Lithuania, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SIDALI Zeki Hakan, Turkey, ALDE
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SPĂȚARU Elena-Simona, Romania, ALDE
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
STOICA Diana, Romania, ALDE
SZEJNA Andrzej, Poland, SOC
TAMM Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
TANGUY Liliana, France, ALDE
THORSVIK Ingvild Wettrhus, Norway, ALDE
TOOMAST Vilja, Estonia, ALDE
TORNARITIS Nicos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
TRASTOUR-ISNART Laurence, France, EPP/CD
TRISSE Nicole, France, ALDE
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC
VALLINI André, France, SOC
WEISS Sabine, Germany, EPP/CD
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA

Total = 96