

February 28, 2022

*to Executive Committee  
of The European Federation of Psychologists Association  
Brussels, Belgium*

## **Dear EFPA colleagues and members!**

As you all know, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation attacked Ukraine under the false idea of protecting the civilians of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine (the so-called DNR and LNR). Russian troops have been bombing our peaceful towns and villages for five days, women, children and even animals. The Russian army is destroying our military infrastructure in order to disable our chances to defend ourselves. But even this is not enough for them, "peacekeeper" fire rockets are aimed at homes, hospitals, kindergartens, schools, zoos. The occupiers took hold of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The civilians hide in basements and bomb shelters every day; they survive, get sick and give birth there.

It is difficult to describe everything we see and experience every day. Our love for our land, people, and sense of dignity makes us defend ourselves. The citizens of Ukraine are resisting the invaders in various ways; we are defending ourselves with weapons, conducting information protection, and seeking diplomatic support. The main goal of these actions is to save lives and health. Members of the National Psychological Association work 24/7 to support our citizens, help them cope with anxiety, panic, and help the families of our defenders and citizens to grieve. Together with true friends from Psychological Associations in other countries, we launch psychological support networks for Ukrainian refugees. It is difficult to imagine how much work awaits us after the war, which will undoubtedly end with our victory.

In 2019, many of you visited peaceful Kyiv. We are sure that you had a wonderful time with friendly people who share democratic values and use psychology to develop prosperity, peace, equality, and respect for each other and other nations.

**We, the Executive Council of the NPA, ask our colleagues from the EFPA to exclude the Russian Association from the EFPA,** because Russian psychologists have undeniable responsibility for what is happening today on our land, in Europe, near the borders of your countries. The work of many of our colleagues from Russia aims to support the propaganda of the terrorist regime in Russia, and they work with their military, which today come to our homes to kill us, destroy our lives, fake the past and steal the future. Those, who did not commit these actions, are responsible too. They are responsible for silence, not protesting, accepting the situation, and quietly discussing it in the kitchens while our children are dying from the bombs and shootings of the Russian troops.

We are convinced that today, in the 21st century, in the age of humanism and respect for human rights, cooperation with cruelty and dishonesty cannot take place.

With regards, Executive Council of the National Psychological Association of Ukraine

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