

Message from RSP president Yuri Zinchenko sent via Whatsapp today March 1, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Concerning recent dramatic events in Ukraine, I, on behalf of Russian psychologists, would like to convey your attention to the following.

The Russian Psychological Society (RPS) has been a devoted European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) member for quite a while, allowing professional growth and development of RPS and fellow Russian psychologist, in order to practice in accordance with EFPA mission and principles.

In the last two years, European psychologists united to beat the pandemic through mutual support and information sharing. This priceless experience helped millions of people to cope by Russian psychologists performing their duty at an international level. We would like to express our deep appreciation of international humanitarian collaboration among European psychologists, which is possible because of EFPA.

The current times require similar or even greater unity, support, and professional information exchange as many Russian psychologists are now working with Ukrainian refugees and children who have found shelter in Russia, and helping other people who may have been affected by these extreme conditions.

We understand that EFPA Board and Executive council are under great pressure and attention in these challenging times of polar opinions and excessive emotions. Helping people by psychological science and practice is central to EFPA mission, not the issues of territorial integrity and sovereignty. We assume that there may be attempts to prompt international professional society to violate general humanitarian principles as a demonstrative act of discrimination on a national basis (Russophobia in this case).

We truly believe that EFPA decisions will not be driven by emotions or political agenda, but rather by the core principles of mutual collaboration and support to serve humanity. We also hope that EFPA's actions will go in strict accordance with EFPA Statutes, Item 6.5.1., and we would like to ensure you that

- RPS is acting in line with the Statutes and Aims of EFPA, by providing high quality psychological assistance to affected people regardless of their nationality (Ukrainian, Russian, or other), and by supporting psychologists around the world.
- RPS has paid their annual fees for 2021.

RPS is strongly committed to EFPA, entirely shares EFPA's ideals and values and seeks further development of fair, equal, and mutually respectful cooperation with all the interested parties on unbiased and depoliticized basis.

Europe and Russia are closely connected. We consider possible decision on RPS expulsion from EFPA as wrong and illegitimate, but understand the above-mentioned complicated circumstances, which EFPA Board and Executive Council are facing now.

As there are ongoing negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, we would like to kindly ask EFPA to withhold a dramatic decisions.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

With kind regards,

Yuri Zinchenko