

Irish Humanities Alliance:

Statement of Solidarity with Ukraine

1 March 2022



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The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA), an all-island alliance of arts and humanities researchers, is shocked and deeply concerned at the military invasion by Russia of Ukraine. Responding to the plea of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine we condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign independent state, and express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and its community of scholars and scientists.

History shows us that the people of Ukraine have suffered much during the past century. The First World War was followed by a harrowing civil war (1918-24), a horrendous famine (the Holodomor of 1932-33), and the trauma of the Second World War. More recently, Ukraine has suffered the annexation of parts of its territory at the hands of Russia. Since this invasion commenced on 24 February, Ukrainian civilians have been subjected to rocket strikes, missiles, and the threat of nuclear weapons.

The IHA, united by the values of mutual cultural co-operation, respect for inter-cultural dialogue, promotion of peace-keeping and cross-national esteem as ways to resolve complex issues of social and political nature, strongly condemns any military action and aggression. Drawing on the lessons of Irish history, we understand that peace is the only solution alongside mutual respect between neighbours.

We hope that the peace talks that commenced on 28 February 2022 will bring an end to the fighting and open the path for future dialogue. Our thoughts are with everyone who has lost loved ones. To quote Ernest Hemingway in *For Whom The Bell Tolls* "never think that war, no matter how necessary nor how justified, is not a crime. Ask the dead."

The Irish Humanities Alliance wishes for an immediate ceasefire and urges peace.

Further information

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