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Address to legal academics worldwide
from the Department of International and European Law
of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

The world has spoken in a unanimous voice to condemn the aggressive attack of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Department of European and Public International Law of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and wider academic community of Ukraine expresses gratitude to the international community for its support.

We call on the international academic community, international organizations, politicians and businesspeople worldwide to denounce Russian Federation's actions in abuse of international law and to no further accept any political arguments to justify the invasion of Ukraine. Justifications advanced by the Russian Federation as a basis for its invasion are groundless and are a classic example of inversion of victim and perpetrator.

The claims about the alleged 'persecution' of Russian speaking population of Ukraine are bogus. It is Ukraine's sovereign right to choose Ukrainian as its official language. This fact alone – and none other exists -- cannot be considered as limiting other language speakers. The claims concerning 'human rights abuses' on the part of Ukraine, or the population of Eastern Ukraine are the product of propaganda created by the Russian Federation itself. Another fake news is the claims of 'genocide' against people in Eastern Ukraine. They are neither supported by evidence nor stand the scrutiny of the relevant legal test. Neither has there been any indication of such claims before the Russian armed soldiers entered the territory of Eastern Ukraine following the events of 2014.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine amounts to an act of aggression under the 1933 Convention on the definition of aggression, the UN Charter and customary international law. Those who planned, prepared, initiated and executed it need to be held accountable under customary international law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is accompanied by attacks on civilian population and protected objects such as orphanages and residential areas. War crimes are being committed in the heart of Europe this very moment.

We are alarmed by further deployment of troops from the Russian Federation and its allied Belarus. We request international attention to the threats against the Ukrainian speaking people and participants of peaceful demonstrations in 2014. Voiced by Mr. Vladimir Putin in his plan for extermination of those he considers undemocratic, these threats mirror and hail historic actions taken by Russian Empire and the Soviet Union to exterminate the Ukrainian people.

In the name of peace, humanity and the rule of law, we call on the international academic community to address international organizations and decision-makers with their objective and reasoned analysis of the situation in Ukraine and call upon them for action.

As numerous crimes against humanity around the world are allowed to be committed till the end before they are prosecuted, we ask for urgent action to stop ongoing aggression and war crimes committed against Ukraine for not relinquishing its hard-earned independence.