***Motion to Condemn Russian (Kremlin led) aggression against Ukraine & support those negatively impacted in consequence of the situation in Ukraine…***

***Proposer:*** Shawn

***Seconder:*** Gracjan

***Hallam SU Notes:***

In late February 2022, “Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, leaving millions of people fearing for their futures”.[[1]](#footnote-1) World leaders have described the aggression against Ukraine as a “barbaric venture”[[2]](#footnote-2) and a “tyranny”[[3]](#footnote-3). In addition, among others, the European Parliament has condemned “in the strongest possible terms Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine and demands that the Kremlin end all military activities in the country”[[4]](#footnote-4). Furthermore, Members of the European Parliament have “categorically reject[ed] the Russian rhetoric hinting at the possible resort to weapons of mass destruction”[[5]](#footnote-5).

Most unfortunately, “the number of civilians killed during Russia's invasion of Ukraine is rising by the day. By Sunday [27 February 2022], Ukraine's human rights commissioner put the number of civilian victims alone at 210, including several children”[[6]](#footnote-6). There is also other “evidence of possible Russian war crimes in Ukraine”[[7]](#footnote-7).

As a students’ union of a university which has a “leading centre for social justice and human rights”[[8]](#footnote-8), arguably we have a heightened moral responsibility to condemn any acts which result in “catastrophic loss of life and suffering”[[9]](#footnote-9) or breach international laws and conventions.

Commendably, at present, charities, other organisations including businesses and individuals are taking steps to help those negatively impacted by the situation in Ukraine[[10]](#footnote-10). SHU students and staff have held meetings this week (W/C 28 February 2022) to plan the best possible ways in which they could support these efforts. Further meetings are likely to take place in the next few days with a view to finalise and execute these plans. This is indicative of SHU students (and staff) being passionate about supporting those negatively impacted by the current situation in Ukraine.

***Hallam SU Believes:***

1. The “attack by Russian Military forces”[[11]](#footnote-11) on Ukraine is “unjustified”[[12]](#footnote-12): Therefore, such action should cease immediately.
2. Hallam SU must take reasonably practicable steps to support those negatively impacted in consequence of the current situation in Ukraine.

***Hallam SU Resolves:***

1. To condemn Russian (Kremlin led) attacks on Ukraine.
2. To stand in solidarity with Hallam students, people of Ukraine and others negatively impacted in consequence of the current situation in Ukraine.
3. To take reasonably practicable steps to support those negatively impacted in consequence of the current situation in Ukraine. These steps, although not limited to, may include the flowing:
   * 1. Publishing a statement of solidarity on the Hallam SU website and social media.
     2. Publicising relief efforts by Hallam students (for example, *Cycle to Ukraine* initiative organised by the Department of Law & Criminology) via the Hallam SU website and social media platforms.

* END -

**Notes:**

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Web links accessed on 02 March 2022

1. **BBC News**: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-60513807> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Twitter (Boris Johnson):** <https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1496849156861800449> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **The Guardian:** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2022/mar/02/ukraine-news-russia-war-kyiv-kharkiv-russian-invasion-vladimir-putin-joe-biden-latest-live-updates?page=with:block-621f01958f088d6b798da482> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **European Parliament:** <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220227IPR24205/invasion-of-ukraine-meps-call-for-tougher-response-to-russia> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **European Parliament:** <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220227IPR24205/invasion-of-ukraine-meps-call-for-tougher-response-to-russia> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **BBC News:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-60547807> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. **The Guardian:** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/02/researchers-gather-evidence-of-possible-russian-war-crimes-in-ukraine> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. **Sheffield Hallam University:** <https://www.shu.ac.uk/helena-kennedy-centre-international-justice> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. **The White House**: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/23/statement-by-president-biden-on-russias-unprovoked-and-unjustified-attack-on-ukraine> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. **British Red Cross:** <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

    **BBC News:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-60588633> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. **The White House:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/23/statement-by-president-biden-on-russias-unprovoked-and-unjustified-attack-on-ukraine> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. **The White House:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/23/statement-by-president-biden-on-russias-unprovoked-and-unjustified-attack-on-ukraine/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)