

DURHAM REGION LAW ASSOCIATION



Statement for the Ukraine Community

Friday, March 4th, 2022

On Behalf of the Durham Region Law Association

The Durham Region Law Association is deeply troubled about Russia's invasion of Ukraine ordered by President Vladimir Putin. The Ukrainian diaspora living in Canada numbers almost 1.4M, the largest population of Ukrainians outside of Russia and Ukraine. Many Ukrainians have chosen Durham Region as their home in Canada and have had an indelible impact on our community.

The Durham Region Lawyers Association supports the rule of law, including international law. Russia's attack on the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine is a serious breach of peremptory norms of international law and the laws of Ukraine. Its actions in Ukraine, including attacks on civilians, are a continued breach of international law. We condemn this aggression, and we call for respect of international law, and in particular an immediate commitment to international humanitarian law.

We support the Canadian government response and actions to date relating to the hostilities in Ukraine, and we call on the government to continue to pursue diplomatic solutions that further assist in the resolution of this conflict and accountability for any breaches of international law.

We also urge the Canadian government to take immediate action to help welcome vulnerable Ukrainians to Canada. While we welcome the government's intention to prioritize immigration applications for Ukrainians, swifter action is needed.

The DRLA stands with its colleagues in Ukraine and with the entire Ukrainian-Canadian community across the country. We reiterate the importance of the rule of law as the foundation that supports democracy, human rights, and freedoms.

Mark Jacula
President – DRLA