

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY SPRING TERM TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

RESOLUTION NO. Res-205-002

AUTHORED BY: Arlene Lopez

SUPPORTED BY:

A RESOLUTION TO: This resolution is to condemn the Russian war on Ukraine and recognize the ongoing atrocities, stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, condemn the racism and xenophobia that has framed and permeated the war, and call on the Harvard Law School administration to act in their capacity to support affected students.

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the right to life, liberty, and security of person is a human right recognized within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that is the basis of many international treaties and has been recognized by the international community since 1948,

WHEREAS, the Russian war on Ukraine since 2014, has resulted in the killing of more than 15,000 people and the displacement of over 1 million people,

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Russian Federation military forces launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine and catapulted the two countries into a war that has captured the attention and horrified the international community,

WHEREAS, the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area by Russian Federation military forces, including shelling from heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, and air strikes, has resulted in extensive destruction to infrastructure and property as well as over [1,546 civilian casualties, including more than 90 children](#), as of March 11, 2022,

WHEREAS, more than [660,000 refugees](#) have fled Ukraine since the invasion and more than [1.5 million people](#) remain internally displaced within Ukraine since the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea in 2014,

WHEREAS, the Russian Federation has detained more than [4,500 anti-war protesters](#) across 53 cities in Russia in its attempt to silence critical voices of the war and thwart freedom of expression, threatening protesters, journalists, human rights organizations, and any other dissident voices with up to [15 years imprisonment](#),

WHEREAS, the attack upon Ukraine is not only an attack upon its sovereignty but equally so an attack upon its people's right to self-determination in their political and ideological aspirations,

WHEREAS, the pervasiveness of racism and xenophobia has physically and psychologically harmed refugees, particularly African and Indian immigrants, expats, and students across Ukraine, in their efforts to secure their safety and wellbeing,

WHEREAS, racism and xenophobia have continued to manifest themselves particularly through the media's coverage and comparisons of the war in Ukraine with conflict in other parts of the world.

WHEREAS, Harvard President Larry Bacow has emphasized the university's support for Ukraine and commitment to "continue to speak against cruelty, and to act with compassion as we hold to hope for resolution—and for liberation."

WHEREAS, the Harvard Ukraine Solidarity Alliance, a group of over 100 Ukrainians and their allies across the twelve Harvard graduate and professional schools and Harvard College, has organized to reflect the sentiments of Ukrainian students on campus and promote the interests of Ukrainians on and off campus,

WHEREAS, since the escalation of the war, private businesses, pension funds, and governments across the world have begun to announce their plans to review their investment portfolios and divest from Russian assets,

WHEREAS, in 2014, Harvard University was the first U.S. endowment to become a signatory to the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), through which it has committed to considering environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in the course of underwriting, analyzing, and monitoring investments,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government stands in unity with the people of Ukraine and their continuous plight in securing their safety, protecting their homeland, and determining their futures free from unsolicited foreign interference and aggression,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes and condemns the racism and xenophobia that continue to shape media's coverage and comparisons of the war in Ukraine with conflict in other parts of the world,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes and condemns the racism and xenophobia faced by racial minorities fleeing Ukraine as they seek safety within and across borders,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes the Harvard Ukraine Solidarity Alliance as a cross-school union of Ukrainian students and their allies in promoting the interests of Ukrainians on campus and abroad as they call for political, financial, and academic support for affected students detailed in multiple letters and petitions to Harvard University (included in the appendix) and calls on the Harvard Law School administration to act on those points *mutatis mutandis*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government calls for Harvard to disclose and sever any and all economic ties to the Russian Federation, including any investments, grants, or contracts with the Russian government or Russian-owned companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes and condemns the war crimes and violent acts of aggression promulgated by the Russian Federation towards Ukraine and calls on the Harvard Law School administration to disclose and sever any and all ties with Russian entities, except as such ties may support efforts to pressure the Russian Federation to abandon its war in Ukraine.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: March 2022

VOTE TOTALS:

12 YES

0 NO

0 ABSTAIN

Appendix:

1. Student Letter 1:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1atJkrtuEznrbZtD-2Y8QLWb8g8_A-mLea3p0GkGCFs0/edit

2. Student Letter 2:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JLEnd4f3w74xnmzyqn_TY6doFdedSpqFFFqGJ5ODqA0/edit

