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Statement of The Federation of Polish Associations in NSW on the aggression of the Russian Federation against the sovereign Ukrainian state.

On 24th of February 2022 a major nuclear power state has attacked a neighbouring Ukraine and is threatening reprisal on any other state that may come to its rescue.

This is not only the greatest violation of international law, but also a violation of the basic principles of human rights and co-existence. It is costing many lives with unknown consequences ahead of us.

We are seeing Russian military operations inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine on a scale that Europe has not seen in decades.

With deaths rising, we are seeing images of fear, anguish, and terror in every corner of Ukraine. Everyday innocent people pay the highest price.

It is wrong.

It is unacceptable.

It is a serious threat to the rules - based international order, with ramifications well beyond Europe.

It is against the United Nations Charter.

The Charter is clear:

"All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations".

On 25 February 2022 UN News reported that deadly missile attacks from Russia's so called "special military operation" in Ukraine, including the capital city Kiev and other cities, terrified families have been forced to seek shelter underground and at least 100,000 people have likely been displaced by the violence.

The Federation of Polish Association in NSW strongly condemn Russia's reckless and unprovoked attack on Ukraine, which puts at risk countless civilian lives.

We condemn the Lukashenka regime, which is assisting Putin in his barbarian attack on Ukraine. We demand freedom for Andżelika Borys and Andrzej Poczobut Polish leaders in Belarus.

The Federation of Polish Association in NSW call on Russia to cease its military action immediately and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the name of humanity, do not put at risk countless civilian lives, especially women, children, and old people.

We call for solidarity for the full respect of international and humanitarian law, in particular the Four Geneva Contentions of 1949 and their First Additional Protocol of 1977.

We stand with the people of Ukraine at this terrible time.

Help for Ukraine could be forwarded by Ukrainian Council of New South Wells:

<u>Ukraine Crisis Appeal</u> | Humanitarian Aid for those in need

The Board

of Federation of Polish Associations in NSW