

To the international museum community and to whom it may concern!

March 1, 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania

Dear colleagues,

As representatives of Lithuanian museum association and ICOM Lithuania we express grave concern about ongoing military attack that is being carried out by Russian and Belarussian governments. The biggest war in Europe since the World War II is tearing innocent Ukrainian civilian lives and can in no way be justified. Current Russian and Belarussian authorities broke any hope that they can cohabitate in modern world as countries that respect human lives, rights, values and cultural heritage.

We would like to remind you with regret that the fears expressed by ICOM Ukraine colleagues during the last meeting of the Advisory Council (when the 2025 General Conference host-country was discussed) came true in the most cruel way.

Given this situation and global condemnation of Russian and Belarussian actions in cultural, economic, transport, sport and other sectors we demand ICOM and NEMO to strictly condemn the military actions of these two countries.

We also require to suspend membership of all museum organizations based in Russia and Belarus for indefinite period unless they express a clear position against the actions of their governments.

Finally, we urge to clearly express the will to help Ukrainian museums and their employees, including those who were forced to leave the country, and coordinate these processes.

Given the rapid change of the events, we hope to hear the decision from you as soon as possible.

With best regards,

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