

Statement from YouthLeads of the Community of Democracies dedicated to the anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine

Ukraine has been fighting Russian aggression for over a decade. And as of February 24th, 2022, the Ukrainian nation has been living through a full-scale war. At least 10,000 civilians, including more than 560 children, have been killed and over 18,500 have been injured since then, according to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

During these two years since the full-scale war began, Ukrainians have experienced and overcome many challenges to fight for the right to be free. Examples range from enduring blackouts and continuous shelling to grappling with the destruction caused by events like the blowing up of the Kakhovskaya Dam and the looming threat of nuclear war. They face the possibility of death, both as individuals and as a nation and state.

Despite the everyday dangers, Ukrainians continue to hold onto hope and shed light on those in need through volunteering, awareness digital campaigns, and activism. Volunteering became a powerful force in which every Ukrainian citizen took responsibility for themselves, their communities, and their country. By uniting as a nation of 40 million volunteers, Ukrainians keep fighting for their right to live in an independent and democratic state.

The resilience and endurance of the Ukrainian people remind the world once again that Ukraine is free and united. The solidarity that nations across the world have shown Ukraine proves that autocracies have no right to dictate the global agenda. Democracy should always prevail against the abuses of power and the atrocities we see committed towards human beings every day.

As YouthLeads of the Community of Democracies, we stand with Ukraine as it continues its battle for freedom, as part of the global movement toward a just, safe, and democratic world.