**PRESS RELEASE**

**365 days of Ukrainian Resistance marks anniversary of Russian invasion of Ukraine**

24 February marks 365 days of Ukrainian resistance against Russia's illegal and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Russia’s barbaric war against Ukraine has created the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War, disrupted the food supply to some of the world’s most vulnerable nations, and has threatened European and world peace.

Over the past year, Russia has:

* systematically targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure all over Ukraine. Over 7000 peaceful civilians, including over 450 children, have been killed and thousands have been injured;
* destroyed medical, religious, cultural, and educational facilities. Over 5,380 schools and hospitals have been totally destroyed;
* committed countless atrocities and war crimes against the Ukrainian population – including, rape, sexual violence, murder, torture, mutilation and unlawful deportation of Ukrainians to Russia, including over 16,000 children. Over 58,000 Russian war crimes are currently being investigated.

The Association of Ukrainian in Great Britain (AUGB) is calling on individuals and organisations across the UK to participate in events or demonstrations which will show solidarity with Ukrainians in Ukraine and across the world.

**The Chair of the Association of Ukrainians in** **Branch,** **Name, said:**

"We are grateful to the UK Government, devolved governments, political leaders, the British people and all spheres of UK society for their unwavering support for Ukraine and displaced Ukrainians over the past year."

On the first anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, AUGB is calling on the UK Government, with the support of all opposition political parties, to:

* further strengthen sanctions against Russia and continue to provide Ukraine with all the military assistance that it needs to win this war;
* coordinate with allies and the International Criminal Court to establish an international tribunal to bring to justice Russia’s political and military leadership, its backers and all those accountable for aggression against Ukraine and war crimes against Ukraine’s people;
* isolate Russia from all international forums and sporting events until Ukraine’s borders are restored.

**Branch AUGB Chair,** **Name, said:**

“Russia’s war is a war against democratic values, international law and the right to self-determination. Ukraine will continue to resist and fight for a complete victory - at huge cost to its people - to protect sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine and secure lasting peace and stability for the whole of Europe.”

**NOTE TO EDITORS**

The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) is the largest representative body for Ukrainians and those of Ukrainian descent. It was founded in 1946 by Ukrainians who were given sanctuary in the UK after World War II, including those who fought in the Polish armed forces and those taken to Germany as forced labourers.

The Association exists to promote and develop the interests of the Ukrainian community, to promote our heritage and culture and to support sovereignty, democracy and civic society in Ukraine.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine:

* through our Help Ukraine Emergency Appeal we have collected £3.5m which we have distributed to three charities working on the ground in Ukraine to provide medical and other humanitarian aid, food and hygiene products, generators, heaters and blankets, psychological support for internally displaced Ukrainians, especially children, and rescue and evacuation services.
* With the Eparchy of the Holy Family in London, established a Ukrainian Welcome Centre which provides a safe space and services for displaced Ukrainians.
* Our 31 branches have not only worked closely with local communities to provide considerable humanitarian aid to Ukraine, but they have opened their doors to displaced Ukrainians, organising events and providing a safe space to allow those affected by war to come together and stay connected to their heritage, as well as obtain advice from the many government and voluntary agencies that we work with.
* We sit on the government’s Core Delivery Group and have worked with all government departments to establish and develop the Homes for Ukraine scheme, highlighting issues faced by displaced Ukrainians and ensuring the community voice is heard.
* We have provided evidence to Select Committees and met political leaders to brief them on issues facing Ukraine and Ukrainians and ensure continuing support.

Say here what is planned for your town, date, time and place

Click [here](https://www.augb.co.uk/augb-events) to see the events being held around the country to mark the first anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.