

Union's Response to the Russia Ukraine Invasion

Union Council

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Union Notes

1. On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a [large-scale invasion](#) of Ukraine.
2. The war in Ukraine is [ongoing](#) with casualties both among civilians and military personnel.
3. The UK and the EU [closed their airspace](#) to flights to and from Russia. Many Western countries, including the UK, [cut numerous Russian banks](#) off the SWIFT international payment system.
4. 10 Ukrainian and 124 Russian students are currently registered in the Imperial College London student body. For historical reasons, many people from Russia, Belarus, and other post-Soviet countries, have familial ties to Ukraine. Students without Russian or Ukrainian citizenships can have familial and other links to these countries too.

Union Believes

1. The Union condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces and any use of violence.
2. The ongoing events can be extremely distressing for students affected by the conflict, especially if their loved ones are in the war zone. Those students can be in need of mental health and/or financial support.
3. Each student's situation is complex and individual. In general, the emotional toll on affected students makes it harder for them to focus on academic tasks. Some students may have had to take physical action as well at the expense of academic tasks.
4. Students with family in Russia are affected by the physical and financial barriers between their country and the UK/EU.

Union Resolves

1. For the union to take an official, public stance on the recent invasion.
2. For the Union to lobby the college to take an official, public stance on the invasion.
3. For the Union President to lobby the College to commit to disassociate from any partnerships that are funding the current crisis (either arms-related or those with ties to the Russian government). For the union to support **any** student impacted by the invasion by:
 - i) Sending a college-wide email to all students offering signposting support, information on how to support peers, and helpful sources to stay informed.
 - ii) Lobbying the college to implement support strategies as outlined in resolve 4.
 - iii) Ensuring students have a caseworker from the Advice Centre to support them in liaising with the college if required. Emphasising support for LGBTQ+ students and students from other vulnerable groups (e.g. ethnic and religious minorities, neurodivergent students) affected by the invasion and implement support strategies specific to these groups.
 - iv) Collaborating with departmental academic and wellbeing reps to ensure that adequate support is being put in place on a local level.

4. For the Union to lobby the college to send a college wide email reaching out to all students, offering support such as a fast-tracked hardship fund, mitigating circumstances and counselling and/or general mental health support applications, and to set up a temporary inbox for queries or concerns relating to the current crisis.
5. For the Union to take an official, public stance against harassment or bullying of Ukrainian and Russian students.
6. For the Union to lobby the college to take an official, public stance against harassment or bullying of Ukrainian and Russian students.