



**Bologna Follow-Up Group Co-Chairs
Bologna Follow-Up Group Secretariat**

Dear BFUG Co-Chairs, dear BFUG Secretariat,

The European Higher Education Area is built on the fundamental principles of democracy and the rule of law. These principles has been unequivocally reinforced in the EHEA vision in the Rome Communiqué 2020, signed by 48 Ministers responsible for higher education in all the European Higher Education Area countries.

At 5 o'clock in the morning on February 24, 2022 the Russian Federation has started the war against Ukraine. Our country endures massive bombing, shelling and invasion by troops. According to the real-time data, the Russians have killed 352 civilians, including 14 children, and wounded 1684 civilians, including 116 children, and these numbers are growing.

There are more than 4,5 million schoolchildren and 1,5 students in Ukrainian educational institutions, including 76,5 thousand international students from 155 countries, - whose access to education is challenged in the current war situation. There are also 638,9 thousand teaching and research staff in Ukrainian educational institutions, - who had to overnight switch from enhancement of learning and teaching to ensuring basic needs and survival of their pupils, students, foster-children. The Bologna Process cannot stand aside from the ruthless aggression and remain silent at this turning point for the whole world.

Ukraine considers it unacceptable to continue Russia's presence in the Bologna Process and asks for an immediate and clear reaction of the EHEA to the war that the Russian Federation has started against Ukraine.

We ask the BFUG Secretariat to ensure approval of the decision on suspending participation of the Russian Federation in the work of the Bologna Process and its expulsion from the governmental members of the European Higher Education Area. We expect that the Ukrainian side will receive an answer and a decision on this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely and with the hope on support!

Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine

Serhiy SHKARLET



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