



Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

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March 20, 2022

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada

Dear Minister Joly,

On behalf of our organizing committee, I respectfully present for your attention the attached statement on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, signed by 100 Canadian scholars of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Drawing on our deep professional engagement with this region, we have prepared and signed this statement to share with you, your government, and our fellow citizens our assessment of the causes of this invasion, the issues it presents for Canada and our partners in NATO, and the broad approach Canada should follow to support Ukraine's independence.

In particular, as we note in our statement, we believe that responsibility for the invasion rests exclusively with Russia and does not result from NATO's inclusion of new members since 1991. We also draw attention to the serious harms to Canada that we believe would result from a Russian victory in the current war of aggression against Ukraine. In addition, we call on Canada and other NATO countries to supply Ukraine with the financial, material, and political support it needs to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thank you for your attention to our statement.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Light

*For myself and on behalf of the organizing committee*

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

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