

PRESS RELEASE

1 March 2022

Commonwealth social workers stand firmly against acts of aggression

The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work joins other national and international social work bodies in calling for an end to wars in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world and respect for international order and multi-lateral institutions. COSW supports the statement on Ukraine issued by the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#).

'The Commonwealth was built on the bedrock of an international order which recognised the vital importance of peaceful co-existence based on the shared values of democracy, peace, security, justice, respect for international law, the advancement of the rule of law and the protection, respect, and fulfilment of human rights of all people. These principles run through our Charter and bind our family. However, they are not limited to the Commonwealth; they are universal values that apply to everyone, everywhere.'

'The acts of aggression unfolding in Ukraine are an egregious assault on our fundamental principles and our shared beliefs. They threaten the very core of the integrity of our multilateral architecture.'

Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations 'Social work recognises that human conflict is a reality in relationships between individuals and groups', said COSW Chair Sylvia Daisy Romanus. 'Dialogue is essential to develop mutual respect and trust in order to reduce conflict and tension.'

'COSW recognises that there are many conflicts around the world. Each one has consequences for individuals and families which are as unacceptable as those facing the people of Ukraine. We applaud the work of the United Nations and other institutions around the world which are working for peace, respect for human rights and support for refugees.'

'COSW calls on all national leaders to respect the rights of all peoples, to facilitate respectful dialogue and to promote peaceful co-existence', Sylvia Romanus concluded. **ENDS**

SEE ALSO:

[The Commonwealth stands firmly against acts of aggression](#)

[Military Aggression in Ukraine – IFSW statement](#)

[IASSW Statement on the Ukraine](#)

NOTE TO EDITORS

COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in supporting social work and social development. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth. It aims to promote and support communication and collaboration between social workers and social work associations of Commonwealth countries, and to uphold and promote the code of ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers. This statement can be found on the COSW website www.cosw.info/news