



Australian Section

26 February 2022

Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Prime Minister,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Australia strongly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We agree with the Australian Government's call for Russia to cease its illegal actions and to stop violating Ukraine's independence.

We urge the Australian Government to stand united with the international community to ensure that protection and humanitarian assistance is provided to Ukraine. We welcome the news that Australia will provide medical supplies and financial support to Ukraine. However, we do not support your government's announcement that Australia can provide "non-lethal military equipment" to Ukraine.

WILPF calls for no more wars - not now, not ever again - and the provision of military equipment only risks exacerbating the conflict situation. The Australian government's stated aim to increase Australia's arms industry and exports serves to reinforce a globally competitive militarised economy and world order, which does little to promote regional and global peace and security.

WILPF urges the Australian Government to strongly pressure Russia to withdraw from Ukraine, to engage with the UN Charter, international humanitarian and human rights law, and to join in dialogue and diplomacy as part of the international community, to prevent violence and conflict. Further, we support those in Russia who have protested against their government's military campaign in Ukraine.

WILPF welcomes the news that you are considering supporting a range of visa options for Ukrainians who might have to flee their country and urges you to increase the number of refugee visas available to Ukrainians. This can make a significant contribution to the human rights of women and girls in Ukraine who we know are disproportionately affected by conflict and displacement.

We strongly urge you to fulfil your government's commitments to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; international commitments on the protection of human rights of women and girls – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and the Australian Government's 2nd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2031. **Specifically, WILPF urges you to ensure that women and girls, particularly women human rights defenders, including those displaced during this conflict, are not left behind.**

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Reynolds
President