



Statement by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

One year of war in Ukraine: we cannot allow 'war fatigue' to kick in

24 February 2023

Today one year ago, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. The amount of human suffering and systemic destruction that have happened since are beyond comprehension. On 15 January 2023, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 18,358 civilian casualties in the country: 7,031 killed, among whom 433 children, and 11,327 injured¹. The WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on health care reports 802 attacks with 101 healthcare workers deceased 135 injured². Whole cities have been wiped from the earth and people are devoid of basic needs including food, heat and electricity.

A year ago, EUPHA called for:

- a) An immediate cessation of hostilities, followed rapidly by a withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine, supervised by international monitors from either the United Nations or Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;
- b) Respect for the Geneva Conventions, and in particular the protection of health workers and facilities;
- c) Full implementation of the [Minsk II agreement](#); and
- d) Respect for the rights of those in the Russian Federation who are calling for peace³.

Unfortunately, these points are still as valid today as they were one year ago. Therefore, we strongly repeat our call, and we also call upon our governments to keep on generously supporting the Ukrainian people in order to try to end the war and alleviate their suffering, both the people that stayed behind in Ukraine and the people who fled to other countries.

As the war continues, there is a risk of 'war fatigue'. As a public health community, we have a role to play in preventing that from ever happening. We need to stand together in defense of basic democratic values and respect for human lives and human rights.

¹ [Ukraine: civilian casualty update 16 January 2023 | OHCHR](#)

² Numbers per 20 February 2023: [Home \(who.int\)](#)

³ [EUPHA statement on Ukraine 25 Feb 2022.pdf](#)



The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is the umbrella organisation for public health associations and institutes in Europe. EUPHA has 81 members from 47 countries. Our network brings together over 39,000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

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