

Declaration of the scientific community of the H. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

In these turbulent days, so decisive for Ukraine, we, the personnel of the Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, have been receiving numerous letters of support and solidarity from our colleagues in Europe and North America, colleagues with whom we are connected by many years of collaboration, personal contacts, common research projects, conferences, etc. That support and solidarity is not just the result of personal sympathies and of the experience of working together; the letters from our Western colleagues invariably appealed to our common values—values on which the Republic of Letters is based: respect for facts, critical thinking, rationality, freedom of research and the resolution of differences through reasoned discussion.

The Russian Federation's aggressive attack on Ukraine is aimed not just at destroying the Ukrainian state and depriving Ukrainians of their right to exist as a nation, but also at destroying those values once and for all. It is inspired by the ideology of the self-styled "Russian World" which—as in the case of the totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century—tries to give itself a degree of verisimilitude by the deployment of stereotypes and the manipulation of historical facts. Putin's propaganda does not hide the fact that the goal of the Russian Federation is to make this ideology the foundation of a new world order. This propaganda has often found support in Western countries and unfortunately among Western intellectuals because it corresponds to a picture of the world left over from the Cold War and congenial to the Realpolitik of Western nations. In this picture there is no place for a free, strong, independent Ukraine. In its cunning appeal to particular selfish interests of Western societies, Putin's policies began to undermine the values that those societies officially profess.

We are very grateful to our colleagues for their offers to accommodate us in their homes and within their research communities. Today, however, the most important thing for us is to remain in Ukraine, to make our contribution to the victory of our country and to continue our research, our academic discussions, our dialogue with foreign partners, but precisely as Ukrainian researchers. Now more than ever we feel ourselves to be an equal part of the free democratic world and we are ready to collaborate—as researchers, philosophers, intellectuals—with colleagues from the other countries of that world so that together we can promote the affirmation of the ideas and values that are the foundation on which and in the name of which of the civilized world order is built.

Kyiv, February/March 2022