



Brussels, 3 March 2022 ++ information for EWC members and signatories ++

## **UPDATE: Ukraine: European and International Writers and Translators against War and Violence**

45 Chairs, Presidents, Directors of 44 European and International writers' and translators' organisations from 25 countries support the joint manifesto by the EWC together with the Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian Writers' Unions and declare their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and our fellow Ukrainian writers and translators.

**Dear EWC member, dear colleagues, and friends,  
Chairs and Representatives of Writers and Translators' Organisations,**

With this letter you receive information on:

- Translations of the EWC declaration
- Signatories
- Support projects and information on the EWC homepage
- An appeal by Nina George, EWC President

### **Translations of the EWC declaration**

With the help of Arno Jundze, Chair of the Latvian Writers' Union, we issued the EWC declaration in two translations, ready to be shared also among your Ukrainian and Russian colleagues:

- **Ukrainian**, by Volodimirs Ivanickis / Володимир Іваницький:  
[https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stopthewarinukraine\\_ukr/](https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stopthewarinukraine_ukr/)
- **Russian**, by Artūrs Punte:  
[https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stopthewarinukraine\\_rus-2/](https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stopthewarinukraine_rus-2/)

### **European and International Writers and Translators against war and violence – 45 Chairs and Presidents from 44 organisations in 25 countries signed the declaration**

Signatories of the [EWC declaration of 24/2/22](#), until Wednesday 3/3/22, 12:00 Brussels time:

- Sophie Aslanides, President of ATLF, Association des Traducteurs Littéraires de France
- Vanessa Bertran, President, UPAD – Union Professionnelle des Auteurs de Doublage (Dubbing Writers), France
- Jitka Bret Srbová, Chair, The Czech Writers' Association, Czech Republic
- Nicolas Couchepin, President of the Swiss writers' and translators' association A\*dS Autrices et auteurs de Suisse
- James Madison Davis, Chairperson, International Association of Crime Writers - North America
- Jacek Dehnel, Chair, Unia Literacka, Literary Union, Poland
- Kevin Doyle, Chairperson, The Irish Writers' Union, Republic of Ireland
- Lena Falkenhagen, Chair Woman, Verband deutscher Schriftstellerinnen und Schriftsteller / German Writers' Association, Germany
- Dr. George Farrugia, President of the Academy of Maltese (Akkademja tal-Malti), Malta



- Zoran Ferić, President, The Croatian Writers' Society, Croatia
- Bogdan Ghiu, President, Romanian Association of Literary Translators, Romania
- Anne Sofie Hammer, Vice Chair, The Danish Authors' Society
- Eystein Hanssen, Chair, Norwegian Society of Authors – Forfatterforbundet, Norway
- Christophe Hardy, Président, La Société des Gens de Lettres, France
- Joanne Harris, Chair of the Management Committee, The Society of Authors, United Kingdom
- Marieke Heimburger, Chairwoman, Verband deutschsprachiger Übersetzer/innen literarischer und wissenschaftlicher Werke e. V. / German Literary Translators' Association
- Sirpa Kähkönen, President, Finnish Writers Union, Finland
- Tobias Kiwitt, Chair, Union of Young Authors, Germany
- Per Kornhall, Chair, The Swedish Association of Educational Writers, Sweden
- Jens J. Kramer, Chair, The German Language Crime Writers - Syndikat, Germany-Austria-Switzerland
- Zlatko Krilić, President, The Croatian Writers' Organisation, Croatia
- Heidi Marie Kriznik, President, The Norwegian Authors' Union, Norway
- Nicolae Manolescu - President, Writers' Union of Romania
- José Jorge Letria, President of the Board and CEO, Portuguese Society of Authors, Portugal
- Tanja Petrič, President, Društvo slovenskih književnih prevajalcev (Slovenian Association of Literary Translator) (DSKP) Slovenia
- Nicole Pfister Fetz, Secretary-General of the Swiss writers' and translators' association A\*dS Autrices et auteurs de Suisse
- Barbara Pogačnik, ZAMP - Society of Slovenian Authors and Rightholders, Slovenia
- Vesselina Rayjekova, President, Bulgarian Translators' Union, Bulgaria
- Manuel Rico Rego, President, Spanish Writers' Association – Asociación Colegial de Escritores de España, Spain
- Grethe Rottböll, President, Sveriges Författarförbund, The Swedish Writers' Union, Sweden
- Guy Stern, President, PEN Center for German Language Writers
- Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo, Chair, The Society of Swedish Authors in Finland
- Marion Tauschwitz, President, Society of Women Writers, Germany
- Timo Tossavainen, President, The Association of Finnish Nonfiction Writers, Finland
- Tanja Tuma, President, Slovene PEN, Slovenia
- Karl Ágúst Úlfsson, Chairman of the Writers' Union of Iceland (Rithöfundasamband Íslands)
- Arne Vestbø, Secretary General, The Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translators Association, Norway
- Eva Valvo, President, Strade – Italian Literary Translators' Union, Italy
- Maria Vlaar, Chair, Auteursbond / The Dutch Authors' Association, The Netherlands
- Shaun Whiteside, President, CEATL – European Federation of Literary Translators' Organisations

**Additional individual solidarity statements** by the organisations of the undersigning signatories are to find here: <https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stophewarinukraine/>



## Support projects

### **(1) EWC list of support projects in Europe**

Under [https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stophewarinukraine\\_support/](https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/stophewarinukraine_support/) you find a list of initiatives, funding and help organisations and more projects to support.

→ please let us know, if your organisation is organising a support project (short description, website), or would like to recommend a national organisation or project, so we can put it on the list and disseminate the information also online.

### **(2) Direct support for writers, translators, artists in Ukraine**

[Support for Ukrainian Cultural Activists: PEN Ukraine together with PEN Belarus, Polish PEN Club and Open Culture Foundation](https://penbelarus.org/en/2022/02/28/zbor-dlya-dzeyachau-kultury-z-ukrainy.html) is organising a public fundraiser to support the creative community of Ukraine. The funds will go to help Ukrainian writers, journalists, scholars, translators. <https://penbelarus.org/en/2022/02/28/zbor-dlya-dzeyachau-kultury-z-ukrainy.html>

### **(3) Support for writers and translators fleeing Ukraine: Residencies and translation funds**

We would like to draw your attention to a joint action of the Polish association **Unia Literacka** together with four Polish authors' and translators' associations.

**With the permission of the Chair of Unia, the writer and translator Jacek Dehnel, as well as the co-organiser and translator of the attached letter, Rafał Lisowski, we are grateful for sharing it openly with all EWC members, as a possible inspiration for your national activities. It includes the suggestion to establish a scholarship in-residence house, as well as the suggestion to set up translators' funds for the promotion of Ukrainian literature and follow-up support. The letter to the Polish Government:**

*Warsaw, 24 February 2022*

*In the light of today's dramatic events, that is Russia's attack on Ukraine, we, the undersigned board members of Polish writers' and translators' associations, call on you to undertake urgent actions in order to help Ukrainian writers and translators.*

*We propose establishing a grant system for Ukrainian authors who are currently or will soon find themselves in Poland, both in the form of longer residencies and immediate scholarships and allowances for those in need. What we have in mind, of course, are the Polish Book Institute's residencies in Krakow as well as the Konwicki flat in Warsaw, but there may be a need to create a separate establishment.*

*Our experience as organisers of literary residencies in collaboration with municipal governments – which until now have been aimed at helping authors from Belarus – tells us that such assistance is of significant importance. An ideal solution would resemble the Villa Concordia (Bamberg), where authors can stay all year with their families – the Nieborów palace could serve as such a place, but the Ministry surely has an entire list of suitable locations.*

*Another proposal is to establish a system of subsidies for commissioning translations of Polish literature into Ukrainian and Ukrainian literature into Polish, which would help Ukrainian writers and translators to make a living while their native publishers – for obvious reasons – cannot offer them work. These translations, paid for by Polish authorities, can be published online, as was the case with some works created in Poland as part of the government's COVID relief package, or as books printed in Poland.*



*Our associations offer all necessary help in this regard, in terms of disseminating these and other programs among Ukrainian authors as well as gathering and assessing grant applications.*

*For over thirty years of free Poland and free Ukraine literature has been one of the best meeting points for our two nations. Ukrainian writers have been published, awarded prizes, and invited for residencies in Poland, and their voices, carried over into the Polish language by generations of extraordinary translators, have been and still are important and valuable to us. In turn, our books have also gained great favor among Ukrainian translators and readers, and many of us have been guests at literary festivals in cities now showered with bombs.*

*We believe that Polish society has a moral and political duty to assist the attacked Ukrainian society, and in particular we, the community of Polish authors as well as the Polish authorities and governmental agencies dedicated to culture, should aim our help directly at authors and their families. We remember the words of literary historian Stanisław Pigoń that we belong to a nation whose fate is to shoot at the enemy with diamonds, uttered upon learning that the poet Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński joined the Polish military underground during World War II. We also remember what happened to that diamond, struck by a sniper's bullet. We call on the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Polish Book Institute to establish a system of aid which will help Ukrainians save their diamonds.*

*Faithfully,*

*on behalf of the Polish Section of IBBY – Anna Czernow*

*on behalf of Polish PEN Club – Adam Pomorski*

*on behalf of the Polish Writers' Association – Anna Nasiłowska*

*on behalf of the Polish Literary Translators' Association – Rafał Lisowski*

*on behalf of the Literary Union – Jacek Dehnel*

→ **if you want to get in contact with Jacek Dehnel**, write us a short message, we connect you.

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### **An appeal by Nina George, EWC President**

“Dear writers, translators: While the war and Putin's violence rage in Ukraine, our colleagues in Belarus and Russia, poets, writers, are taking to the streets, articulating their opposition to the war online or in (the still) free media, and publicly speaking out against the war. In doing so, they risk prosecution, imprisonment, and life-threatening consequences. We must not forget these colleagues of ours who speak out against their authoritarian regimes of violence. They must not be punished for what they oppose.

I therefore ask you: Think and act beyond borders.

Writers and translators, especially those who stand up for the principle of democracy and peace under these conditions, belong to the same country worldwide: the freedom of the word.

Do not let them go down as additional victims of war in this struggle they did not want.”

Nina George