



Associated Student Senate of Fullerton College

Statement in Support of Ukraine

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Fullerton College Community,

The Associated Students of Fullerton College expresses its support of the independent nation of Ukraine, as well as its government and people, in the presence of violent attacks on the country from invading Russian forces. Ukraine is a democracy, and many Ukrainians are interested in developing closer ties with Europe. Russia is a dictatorship and feels threatened by the possibility of Ukraine aligning themselves with Western Europe.

Over the past 8 years, Russia has supported an ongoing conflict in a small part of Ukraine to keep Ukraine weak and isolated. However, Russia's leader, Vladimir Putin, has tried to overrun Ukraine and depose its government, permanently ending its wish to join NATO. Over the last few years, Putin has consistently misinformed the Russian public as to his reasons for invading Ukraine. In one instance, he falsely declared that it was the Ukrainians who were preparing to invade Russian-controlled territories. He has even falsely accused Ukraine of genocide against Russians [1].

These events and developments between Russia and Ukraine came to a head on the 24th of February when Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin told the Russian people that his goal was to "demilitarize and de-Nazify Ukraine." This, he claimed, was in order to protect people subjected to what he described as eight years of bullying and genocide by the Ukrainian government [1].

Now, over a month into the invasion and attacks, Ukraine has accused Russian forces of war crimes and a massacre in Bucha, near Kyiv where bodies of unarmed Ukrainian civilians and mass graves were found. Many of the bodies had bound hands, close-range gunshot wounds, and signs of torture [2]. Ukrainians are being targeted and massacred by Russian forces. This cannot

remain unaddressed by the Associated Students of Fullerton College, and this organization intends to serve as a conduit through which ways to help Ukraine may be shared with Fullerton College students, staff, faculty, and more.

The Fullerton College community can help to make a difference in the presence of these events. If you are interested in aiding those in Ukraine from the United States, you can do any of the following actions. (1) Call your government officials and ask them to offer Ukraine real military support and stand up to Russian aggression. Only a few minutes of your time could make a difference. To learn who your representative is, visit [this website](#). (2) Donate to these reputable organizations: [Save the Children](#) or [Crisis in Ukraine: Donate Now](#). You can donate directly to [Humanitarian Assistance for Ukrainians](#). You can also donate directly to the [Ukrainian Armed Forces](#). (3) The final thing you can do is spread awareness. From making a simple social media post to organizing a #StandwithUkraine rally or asking your professor to let you give a short speech, your voice can impact people's awareness of these atrocities and prompt them to take action as well. Due to this the Fullerton College Associated Students urges our campus community to stand with and aid Ukraine.

In Solidarity,
Associated Students of Fullerton College 2021-22

[1] Kirby, Paul. "Why Has Russia Invaded Ukraine and What Does Putin Want?" *BBC News*, BBC, 3 Apr. 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>.

[2] Lock, Samantha, and Leonie Chao-Fong. "Russia-Ukraine War: What We Know on Day 40, Including the Bucha Killings." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 4 Apr. 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/04/russia-ukraine-war-what-we-know-on-day-40-including-the-bucha-killings>.