

Open letter
of the Spouses of the Presidents
of the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania:
Mrs Agata Kornhauser-Duda and Mrs Diana Nausėdienė

We call on the politicians, the clergy, the organizations and all people of good will across the world to show solidarity with the Ukrainian children – the defenseless victims of the Russian aggression. Let us do everything we can to end this war!

The Russian aggression against Ukraine started just a week ago but has already inflicted death and suffering on millions of innocent people. Almost 700,000 people have been forced to leave Ukraine leaving behind not only their former peaceful lives in the Homeland, but most importantly their fathers, husbands and brothers who are fighting for freedom.

A big number of refugees are unaccompanied children fleeing the aggression. Behind the numbers of victims there are the personal tragedies of millions of Ukrainian women and men. The everyday lives of Ukrainian children are no longer defined by school and time spent with their peers, but rather by flight and bomb shelters. An entire generation of young Ukrainians will bear the scars of the atrocities of this war on their bodies and souls.

The number of casualties is increasing as we speak – including civilians, also children. The brutal actions of the aggressor in the cities result in the destruction of hospitals, power plants and schools. Attacks on medical and education facilities constitute a grave violation of the norms of international humanitarian law. Cutting off food and medical supplies threatens the health and lives of millions of people. This war is being fought not only in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic but also amid the epidemic of polio and measles among children.

The humanitarian needs both in Ukraine itself and in the countries that have supported it are growing day by day. These include both the most basic needs, such as shelter, food and medical care as well as those that will be provided long after the war is over – education, psychological and medical support.

The world is not leaving Ukraine alone. States and international organizations provide institutional care and support while hundreds of thousands of people show solidarity and provide assistance. Yesterday the United Nations Organization appealed for humanitarian aid. The UN wants to allocate \$ 1.7 billion worth of support. The aid is expected to reach more than 6 million people in urgent need of assistance - in Ukraine and in the neighboring countries that are providing shelter.

The solidarity of the entire international community in the face of this tragedy constitutes a huge value. We call on the people of good will around the world, on civil society organizations, churches and state leaders: let us do all we can to end this war – an adult war which is claiming the lives of the youngest. A war that is killing the present and future of Ukraine's children. Let us help its defenseless victims together.

Agata Kornhauser-Duda
Diana Nausėdienė
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