

Motion

For the support of exclusion of the National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR) in response to their support of the war against Ukraine and the totalitarian regime, violations of the main principles and values of the European Youth Forum

submitted by the National Youth Council of Ukraine (NYCU)

co-submitted by the European Students' Union (ESU), organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is a value-based youth association. Its values are reflected in the Statutes section 2.3. YFJ Statute clearly states that members must have democratic aims and structures and accept the principles of the European Convention of Human Rights, as well as should work with young people and have a decision-making body controlled by young people and not to be subject to direction in their decisions by any external authority. By the Statute of YFJ members have to fulfill the general criteria of membership, numerous of which were strongly violated by the National Youth Council of Russia (Hereinafter - NYCR).

On 22 February¹ and on 1 March² NYCR made formal statements on its website welcoming some of the actions taken by the Russian president that went against those core values.

We demand that the European Youth Forum abides by its values and henceforth excludes NYCR from their membership, considering their violations of YFJ's general criteria of membership. We call on the European Youth Forum to act with vigilance on

the compliance of all membership-seeking organizations to the values and statutes of the Youth Forum, including in cases of former member organizations seeking to re apply.

As for the evidence, we refer to the following facts:

- Organization of support for the so-called "refugees" from so-called self-declared Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics.^{3 4}
- The NYCR signed a Memorandum⁵ of cooperation with the unrecognized Donetsk People's Republic on the occupied territories of Ukraine. While the civilized world recognizes these territories as the ones occupied by Russia and a total violation of international law, NYCR firmly dedicates its support to the governmental actions.⁶
- Some member organizations of the National Youth Council of Russia support cooperation and "youth work" on the occupied territories of Ukraine, including in the city of Mariupol.^{7 8 9 10 11}

- 1 NYCR congratulates so-called self-declared Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics on the recognition of their independence <http://youthrussia.ru/news/nacsovet-molodezhnyx-i-detskix-obedinenij-rossii-pozdravlyayet-dnr-i-lnr-s-priznaniem-nezavisimosti>
- 2 NYCR Board adopted an appeal to young citizens of Russia in connection with the situation in the Donbas and Ukraine. <http://youthrussia.ru/news/s-obrashheniem-k-rossijskoj-molodezhi-vystupilo-pravlenie-nacsoveta-molodezhnyx-i-detskix-obedinenij-rossii>
- 3 "Land of Kindness": rural youth helps refugees from the so-called self-declared Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics <https://rssm.su/news/glavnye-novosti/zemlya-dobra-selskaya-molodyezh-pomogaet-bezhentsam-iz-dnr-i-lnr/>
- 4 Representatives of the Association of Youth Governments of the Russian Federation joined the organization of "humanitarian aid for refugees from so-called self-declared Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics" <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cam0h9UNpKx/>
- 5 Text of Agreement between NYCR and so-called self-declared Donetsk People's Republics http://youthrussia.ru/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%A1%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B4%D1%83_%D0%90%D0%9E%D0%9E_%D0%9D%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B-%D1%8C%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B8%CC%86_%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%82_%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B-%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5%CC%88%D0%B6%D0%BD%D1%8B%D1%85_%D0%B8_%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%81-%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%85_%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%8A%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B8%CC%86.pdf
- 6 The National Council and "Donetsk Republic" will cooperate in the field of youth policy <http://youthrussia.ru/news/nacionalnyj-sovet-i-od-doneckaya-respublika-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-molodyozhnoj-politiki>
- 7 "Young Guard of United Russia" held a boxing tournament in Mariupol <https://mger.ru/novosti/glavnoe/26374-molodaya-gvardiya-edinoy-rossii-provela-v-mariupole-turnir-po-boksu/>
- 8 Representatives of the Russian Youth Union took part in the International Forum "Youth Leaders", which was held in the Sverdlovsk district of the so-called self-declared Luhansk People's Republic <https://www.ruy.ru/press/news/predstaviteli-rossijskogo-soyuzamolodezhi-prinyali-uchastie-v-mezhdunarodnom-forume-lidery-molodezh/>
- 9 The international forum of student self-government "Zachet" began its work in the so-called self-declared Luhansk People's Republic <https://www.ruy.ru/press/news/mezhdunarodnyy-forum-studencheskog-samoupravleniya-zachet-nachal-rabotu-v-luganskoy-narodnoy-respub/>
- 10 Students of the Zaporizhzhia region will become participants of the Russian National Award "Student of the Year - 2022" <https://www.ruy.ru/press/news/studenty-zaporozhskoy-oblasti-stanut-uchastnikami-rossijskoy-natsionalnoy-premii-student-goda-2022/>
- 11 Volunteers of the All-Russian student corps of rescuers as part of the car convoy of the Ministry of Emergencies of Russia provided humanitarian aid to the residents of the so-called self-declared Republic Luhansk People's Republic <http://youthrussia.ru/novosti-chlenskikh-organizatsij-i-partnerov/21505>

- NYCR welcomes¹² the fact that the Government of the Republic of Abkhazia approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the State Committee of the Republic of Abkhazia for Youth and Sports Affairs and the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation in the field of youth policy. This confirms the long-time vision of NYCR regarding the 20% of occupied territories of Georgia via a signed agreement with the Patriotic Movement “Young Abkhazia” since 2015.¹³
- The decision-making of the National Youth Council of Russia is not controlled by young people, who share the values of human rights, freedom, and democracy. The current Chairman holds his mandate **since 2012 and up to now**.¹⁴ *“Following the Statute of the National Youth Council of Russia Article 4.15. The Chairman of the National Council is a permanent executive body and is elected by the Conference by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes of the number of delegates present, subject to the competence of the meeting of the Conference with powers for three years.”*¹⁵

Furthermore, current Board members of the NYCR at the same moment hold positions in the governmental structures responsible for the implementation of youth policy, political parties, or even State Duma:

- One of the most revealing cases is about a Board member of NYCR, who used to be the confidant person of Putin V.V., a candidate for the post of President of the Russian Federation in the elections on March 4, 2012, and confidant of the Headquarters of Public Support of the United Russia Party in the elections of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the VIII convocation on September 19, 2021.¹⁶

- Another case is about a NYCR Board member, who since 2014 till now holds the position of Secretary of the primary branch No. 12 of the United Russia Party of the Savelki district.¹⁷
- One more fact is about NYCR Board member, who at the same time holds the position of Deputy of the State Duma elected from electoral district No. 23 (Mordovia - Republic of Mordovia).¹⁸

The above facts reduce the contribution of youth organizations to the engagement of young people in decision-making processes and do not give legitimacy to youth organizations in peace-building efforts. Such actions are considered a strong infraction of the Statute of the European Youth Forum.

In this regard, the decision of the General Assembly of the European Forum confirms its solidarity with democratic youth movements and confirms its dedication to accepting commonly recognized principles and norms of international law and human rights.

Taking into account the membership review which 11 full members of the European Youth Forum requested in a letter to the Secretary-General on 3 October 2022, and the subsequent report from the independent Consultative Body on Membership Applications, the General Assembly of the European Youth Forum condemns the actions of the National Youth Council of Russia. The General Assembly confirms that these actions violate the purpose, vision and mission of the European Youth Forum and therefore the criteria for membership. The National Youth Council of Russia will be excluded from the membership in the platform effective immediately.

12 NYCR official website <http://youthrussia.ru/novosti-chlenskikh-organizatsij-i-partnerov/utverzhdyon-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-rossii-i-abkaziiv-molodyozhnoj-politike>

13 Text for the cooperation agreement between NYCR and Patriotic movement “Young Abkhazia” <http://youthrussia.ru/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/%D0%A1%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5-%D0%9C%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%8F-%D0%90%D0%B1%D1%85%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B8%D1%8F.pdf>

14 Biography of NYCR acting Chairperson <http://youthrussia.ru/about/leadership>

15 Statute of NYCR <http://youthrussia.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/%D0%A3%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%B2-%D0%9D%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BE-%D0%A1%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0.pdf>

16 Biography of the acting Chairman of the Russian Union of Youth <https://ruy.ru/rsm/personal/krasnorutskiy-pavel-pavlovich/>

17 Website of the United Russia Party <https://moscow.er.ru/person/3df33274-eea8-48fa-8427-cae836049a38>

18 Official Website of State Duma <http://duma.gov.ru/duma/persons/1056046/>



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The European Youth Forum is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, the Council of Europe or the European Youth Foundation. Neither the European Union nor any other granting authority can be held responsible for them.

