

17 February 2022

# Open letter to the Young People of Ukraine

To our friends and colleagues in the National Youth Council of Ukraine and your member organisations,

Our platform was formed to bring together young people from across Europe. We join hands across borders, political divides, religions and traditions, and our actions are inspired by the values of democracy, human rights and mutual respect.

The European Youth Forum is a space for young people from across the continent to share their views, learn from each other, and find a common ground through dialogue. Our diversity and our reach across Europe are a source of pride.

We believe that the future of any country depends on the ability of the younger generation to speak without fear of reprisals. We promote youth involvement in all government decisions and we believe that no one should interfere in their choices. We further believe that well-established youth organisations, such as NYCU, should always be included in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, in line with UNSC Resolution 2250.

With the threat of war looming over Europe, we stand by your side. We reiterate our commitment to do our utmost so that no one has to live in fear of violence or discrimination.

Ukrainian civil society has withstood countless challenges. In 2014, Ukraine chose to fight for dignity and for democracy. Against indiscriminate violence, you worked together to demand what was yours. You stand for democratic reforms and human rights, and with your member organisations, you promote the crucial role that young people play in achieving peace and security. We are confident in your strength to face the threats that come your way and we are inspired by your courage and resilience.

On behalf of the entire Youth Forum family, we express our commitment to stand up for your freedoms and your safety, as you continue to stand up for the rights of young people in Ukraine.

We are with you.

In solidarity,

The Board Members of the European Youth Forum