

EFN STATEMENT
01 March 2022

The EFN condemns the Russian Federation military conflict and unprecedented aggression against Ukraine

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) condemns the unprecedented aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the unacceptable pain, suffering, and loss of lives.

With recent reports of shelling and damage to health facilities, we are deeply concerned about our nurses, midwives and all health professionals in hospitals and health services in Ukraine. Healthcare facilities must not be military targets. The EFN demands that the international principle of medical and health care neutrality is respected, and that the principle of human rights must be upheld and protected. Casualties and patients in Ukraine must have full access to healthcare. Healthcare professionals must not be prevented from performing their professional duties, and any action to prevent or sanction them for carrying out their duty of care to protect lives, contravenes international law.

The EFN calls on the Russian leaders to respect the work of nurses and midwives and all health professionals in Ukraine and the neutrality of healthcare institutions and healthcare professionals.

The EFN is in solidarity with its Ukrainian colleagues, their families, citizens and neighbours and demands an immediate end of the military conflict and hostilities in Ukraine.

The EFN will meet on 2 March with key EU and International nursing stakeholders, as the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the European Federation of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) and WHO Europe, to discuss the ongoing conflict and explore the ways in which we can support our nursing colleagues, ensure access to healthcare and promote peace through a unified nursing response.

In solidarity with Ukrainian nursing leaders and all colleagues in neighbouring countries, we stand together to condemn the military action and proactively support the protection of life and liberty.

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Note to the Editor:

The European Federation of Nurses' Associations (EFN) represents over 36 National Nurses' Associations and its work impacts on the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession, and its mission is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe. For more information, please contact Dr Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations. Email: efn@efn.be or Tel: +32 (0)2 512 74 19

