

dance
studies
association

DSA Condemns Russian Invasion of Ukraine

March 9, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Dance Studies Association strongly condemns the unilateral attack by Russian military forces on the sovereign state of Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine and with the people protesting this war in Russia and across the world. With equal strength, we condemn the Russophobia that accompanies this moment.

DSA urges support for the democratically elected government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Verkhovna Rada (parliament).

While DSA does not currently have any members based in Ukraine or Russia, we – nonetheless – stand with the many dancers and dance scholars across this region as we understand the repercussions this act of war will have across the globe. DSA does have a large membership across the European Union - including Austria, Belgium, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. As the EU expects an influx of refugees from Ukraine, we encourage our DSA EU members to leverage their institutional affiliations and resources to support any displaced persons.

We condemn the racist and dehumanizing treatment that African students and migrants are receiving as they try to exit Ukraine safely. We also condemn global mainstream media's racist civilizational discourse as it attempts to build, not compassion for Ukrainian citizens, but rather cement white European exceptionalism as the privilege-granting exemption that ought to save Ukraine from the generational devastation of war. We also condemn the co-optation of Russia's attack by governments interested in legitimating violent political and economic processes. Ukrainians deserve peace in their own homes, as do Palestinians, Iraqis, Afghans, Yemenis, and all others experiencing ongoing occupation, and the consequences of imperialist, capitalist, military projects.

DSA does not boycott individual scholars.

DSA's modest investment portfolio lists 0.02% of holdings in assets in "Greater Asia - Developed," which may or may not include Russian assets. We are working with our investment firm to clarify this holding, as well as our continued work towards Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) in total. This work was already underway.

The Dance Studies Association has joined [Scholars at Risk \(SAR\)](#) as a network member. As a SAR member, DSA makes a commitment to academic freedom as a core value. We have designated Melissa Blanco Borelli as our SAR representative as she moves into the Immediate Past President role and will establish a SAR committee as a subset of our Board of Directors. As a part of this network, DSA supports a three-pronged mission of protection, advocacy, and learning – providing financial and employment support to academics who have fled their home countries for political reasons. DSA is particularly well positioned to advocate for dance practitioners to be included in these efforts – as Ukraine has a robust professional dance community, including Ballroom dance, folk dance, and other contemporary forms. We encourage all DSA members across the globe to welcome and support Ukraine's dance community as their own.

We call on the Russian Federation to withdraw its forces from the territory of Ukraine immediately.

Signed,

The DSA Board of Directors and Executive Director

Special thank you to DSA members Hanna Järvinen, Jens Richard Giersdorf, and Janice Ross for their input and support with this statement.