



**Mr Vitali Klitschko**  
**Mayor of Kyiv**

21 February 2022

Dear Mayor Klitschko,

We, the undersigned Mayors, as members of the Pact of Free Cities, would like to express our firm commitment and unwavering support to the city of Kyiv and its citizens. We are deeply concerned about the escalated situation between Russia and Ukraine. It is unacceptable that the security of your fellow citizens as well as the vital democratic values of your society are in jeopardy.

An armed aggression against Ukraine led by Russia would pose one of the most severe threats for European peace and security since World War II. We strongly hope that the current escalated situation will be resolved through diplomatic efforts. As city leaders we wholeheartedly support the freedom of the Ukrainian people to choose their own fate and their own alliances. Kyiv must remain a free city and Ukraine a free and democratic country.

We are members of the now 27-strong Pact of Free Cities - founded in 2019 and expanded in 2021. The Pact is a value-driven city network with a mission to rebuild and reinforce democracy, stand as a bulwark against the erosion of the rule of law, and fight corruption, state capture, racism, populism and human rights violations.

The situation currently faced by Ukraine and by Kyiv certainly is amongst the most pressing global issues faced today. We strongly believe that cities are key global players in a multipolar world, and we are eager to play an ever more robust role in protecting democratic values and tackling global challenges.

In this spirit, we are ready to extend our support in these challenging times. Feel free to reach out to us if our cities can be of any help. We would also be honoured to welcome Kyiv to join the Pact of Free Cities.

Yours sincerely,

Femke Halsema, Mayor of Amsterdam

Gergely Karácsony, Mayor of Budapest

Nina Hachigian, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles

Ivan Vuković, Mayor of Podgorica

Ko Wen-je, Mayor of Taipei

Gunter Czisch, Mayor of Ulm

Rafał Trzaskowski, Mayor of Warsaw

Matúš Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava

Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdansk

Arnaud Ngatcha, Deputy Mayor of Paris

Zdeněk Hřib, Mayor of Prague

Cheng Wen-tsan, Mayor of Taoyuan

Katrin Albsteiger, Mayor of Neu-Ulm