

Dear Colleagues, Faculty, and Students,

We know the devastating effects of war: mass destruction of environments, breakdown of economies, widespread trauma, a disruption, and absence of stability in family structure and education, and a perpetuating cycle of poverty. Let us examine the atrocities of the Ukrainian Crisis and its global impact on building communities speaking out against and standing up to tyranny, genocide, discrimination, and hate.

Historically, whether the Bosnian Conflict or war-torn African nations, we have seen child soldiers. Until the first images of the war in Ukraine, never had we seen women on the front lines fighting to protect their families and country. At the start of the crisis, Ukrainians were so terrified the media reported African students experiencing racial discrimination and being thrown off trains by Ukrainian citizens fleeing to find sanctuary.

However, let us examine the irony of this war, and focus on the takeaway that it is also bringing nations together for the greater good of standing up to what is just: citizens of Ukraine are human beings as the rest of us and deserve shelter, solitude, and protection. The history Poland has with Stalin instilled in their citizens great empathy. Poland is taking in Ukraine refugees by the thousands. Polish civil servants are taking sick leave from work to send food and emergency supplies back to Ukraine for citizens seeking shelter. Switzerland, a historically neutral nation, is so enraged by Putin's actions they chose to break their silence imposing sanctions on him and other Russian government officials. Through unprecedented social media campaigns, Americans are involved in humanitarian efforts in support of the citizens of Ukraine. Let us all continue to do what we can for our fellow men, women, and children in the fight against varied forms of racism and politicide.

As we approach this year's upcoming holiday of Passover, let us reflect on our many blessings of renewal as we also pray for the many citizens of Ukraine who continue to suffer the tragedies of devastation, loss, and destitution.

Serving together,

Kathleen M. Dormody
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