

Dear fellow students all over the world,

We, the students of Lithuania, were born and grew up in independent Lithuania. We are living in a free and democratic country. However, we know not only from history textbooks, but also from our parents and grandparents what an occupation, deportations to Siberia and war are.

That is why we are addressing you at this moment when Putin's army has invaded Ukraine and is devastating the country, destroying schools, universities, hospitals, UNESCO world heritage sights as well as residential buildings and killing innocent people, claiming that this is liberation. This is not liberation. This is terror and genocide against peaceful people who love their country and want to live in a democratic world.

We are absolutely sure that each child in this world has a right to grow up in a safe environment, to learn, to develop, to study and to reach his/her goals and dreams. Now, children in Ukraine are losing all this. Moreover, they are losing their parents, relatives, homes and their homeland.

Therefore, it is HERE and NOW. It is the time to react and protect the democratic rights and values. It is the time to say a loud NO to occupation, violence, death and terror that Putin's army is spreading all over Ukraine, which is now fighting not only for its independence but also for democracy, freedom of choice, human rights and values.

Thus we, Lithuanian and international students studying at Lithuanian higher education institutions, are strongly encouraging you not to be indifferent and passive in this situation. We are inviting you to stand actively with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and to support them by any possible means, this way also demonstrating our respect and stance towards human dignity, democracy and freedom.

Lithuanian and international students of Lithuanian higher education institutions