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## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CCJ)

*English only*

### **Statement on solidarity with Ukraine on the Four-Year Anniversary of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion**

Today, February 24, 2026, marks a sombre moment for all who believe in and care about peace, democracy and human rights. Today, we mark four years since the Russian Federation launched its unprovoked and unlawful full-scale invasion of Ukraine, following the illegal annexation and occupation of Crimea, and Russia's aggression and occupation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions since 2014.

Over these last four years, Ukrainians have endured unimaginable suffering and relentless violence. The Advisory Council on Youth, alongside the wider Council of Europe, continues to stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as necessary, and particularly its brave and resilient young people and youth sector.

We will continue advocating for essential programmes, including the 58 initiatives funded through the [European Youth Foundation's Special Call for Ukraine](#), created to support youth civil society in the aftermath of the invasion. We remain dedicated to providing spaces for dialogue for young Ukrainians and ensuring their perspectives are fully integrated into broader youth policy discussions and debates across Europe. As part of this, we cannot but commend the Council of Europe's Kyiv office for its commitment to supporting the Department's [Youth for Democracy project](#) in Ukraine. Likewise, we commend the work of the National Youth Council of Ukraine (NYCU) for its unwavering commitment to advancing youth perspectives and bringing young people together across Ukraine amid wartime.

Young Ukrainians have shouldered extraordinary burdens, including being enlisted to defend their country on the front lines, maintaining essential services such as hospitals, and sustaining their communities despite endless hardship. Their voices must therefore be central, not only now, but especially when the time comes for charting a post-conflict reconstruction and recovery effort.

As reaffirmed by Ministers of Youth from across the 46 Council of Europe member States in the [Final Declaration of the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth](#), "support for Ukraine in the field of youth remains a priority," as do "targeted intergovernmental activities and cooperation with non-governmental youth organisations and networks that foster participation in democratic life and contribute to Ukraine's recovery, including the rebuilding of youth infrastructure and the reintegration of young veterans".

As the Advisory Council on Youth, we draw inspiration from the spirit of Ukraine's youth entailed in the city of Lviv, the [2025 European Youth Capital](#), whose motto – 'Not easy, but move' – captures the resilience and spirit of Ukraine's youth.

We remain committed to ensuring visibility and opportunities for the young people of Ukraine, even in the hardest of times. We also remain hopeful that our next statement on this issue will be one to mark a just and peaceful end to the war.

*The statements of the Advisory Council are published for the purpose of informing the public about the activities of the statutory bodies of the Council of Europe youth sector. The statements reflect the opinions and positions of the Advisory Council and its members. The views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council of Europe.*