
SENATE RESOLUTION

DENOUNCING RUSSIA'S ACTIONS CAUSING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN
UKRAINE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE
CONCRETE ACTION TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND TO
INCREASE THE REFUGEE LIMITS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND
INCREASE FUNDING RELATED TO THOSE EFFORTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted two
2 million Ukrainians to flee the country as of March 8, 2022, and
3 the number is expected to grow even higher as Russia continues
4 its siege tactics of indiscriminately bombing cities; and
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6 WHEREAS, in only the first week of the conflict, more than
7 one million people had fled Ukraine, in comparison it took over
8 two years for that many people to leave Syria; and
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10 WHEREAS, as of March 8, 2022, the 2022 invasion of Ukraine
11 by Russia has caused at least 1,335 civilian casualties in
12 Ukraine, according to the United Nations Office of the High
13 Commissioner for Human Rights; and
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15 WHEREAS, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
16 for Human Rights' statistics are based off confirmable
17 casualties, the number is likely several times higher as many of
18 Ukraine's largest cities under control of the Ukrainian
19 government are subject to relentless bombing campaigns from
20 long-distance artillery as well as air strikes from the Russian
21 military and it is difficult if not impossible to confirm some
22 of the deaths; and
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24 WHEREAS, Russia has begun to use siege style tactics where
25 cities are surrounded from all sides and shelled repeatedly,
26 such as in the port town of Mariupol, and while Russia has
27 promised to open civilian corridors to allow for civilians to
28 leave these cities, several times when they have done so they
29 have broken the ceasefire and shelled the civilian corridors
30 resulting in civilian casualties; and
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1 WHEREAS, for many of the civilians living in these areas,
2 staying in their homes is not an option as intense bombing
3 campaigns by Russia have caused water, power, and energy
4 disruptions, leaving these civilians stuck in homes with no
5 electricity, running water, or heat in freezing temperatures;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, many of these civilians have fled from areas of
9 the country with most of the fighting such as the north, east,
10 and south, and have headed to the western part of the country
11 which has been relatively untouched by the fighting; and
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13 WHEREAS, cities such as Lviv in the western part of Ukraine
14 near its borders with the European Union are bursting at the
15 seams with internally displaced people, and its mayor Andriy
16 Sadovyi has requested international help as the city is
17 currently housing two hundred fifty thousand internally
18 displaced people from other parts of Ukraine, and at least fifty
19 thousand people transit through its railway stations a day; and
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21 WHEREAS, the vast majority of refugees are women, children,
22 and the elderly as Ukraine has banned men ages eighteen to sixty
23 from leaving the country due to a mass mobilization of soldiers;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations High Commissioner
27 for Refugees, as of March 8, 2022, Poland has received 1,204,403
28 refugees, Hungary has received 191,348 refugees, Romania has
29 received 143,000 refugees, Slovakia has received 140,745
30 refugees, the Czech Republic has received more than one hundred
31 thousand refugees, and Moldova has received 82,762 refugees,
32 with other countries receiving fewer refugees; and
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34 WHEREAS, according to the UN Refugee Agency, as of
35 March 31, 2022, Poland has received 2,384,814 refugees, Romania
36 has received 623,627, Moldova received 390,187 refugees, Hungary
37 has received 374,535 refugees, and Slovakia has received 292,039
38 refugees; and
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40 WHEREAS, countries such as Moldova, which is one of the
41 poorest countries in Europe, need more international support to



1 deal with the large number of refugees crossing the border from
2 Ukraine; and

3
4 WHEREAS, although United States President Biden has stated
5 that the United States will accept one hundred thousand
6 refugees, the United States needs to do more to help the refugee
7 crises as countries like Poland, Romania, and Moldova are taking
8 in a disproportionate amount of Ukrainian refugees compared to
9 the rest of the world; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States needs to take more concrete
12 steps to help Ukrainian refugees such as increasing humanitarian
13 aid to western parts of Ukraine that are dealing with an influx
14 of refugees from the other parts of the country and countries
15 dealing with large numbers of Ukrainian refugees; and

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17 WHEREAS, recognizing that the United States has taken some
18 steps towards helping the refugee crisis, such as allowing
19 Ukrainians who arrived in the United States on or prior to
20 March 1, 2022, to apply for temporary protected status; and

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22 WHEREAS, the United States should further help by taking in
23 refugees from Ukraine, similar to how refugees from Afghanistan
24 were taken in, and the United States should also increase the
25 limit of how many refugees it can take in to allow for the
26 resettlement of Ukrainians; and

27
28 WHEREAS, more help should be given to the Ukrainian
29 government and countries housing refugees as soon as possible,
30 and plans should be made on how to deal with this crisis in the
31 longer term as there does not seem to be an end in sight; now,
32 therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
36 that this body strongly and forcefully denounces the Russian
37 Federation and its President Vladimir Putin for the blatant
38 targeting of civilians by the Russian military and the
39 destruction of civilian infrastructure, which makes evacuating
40 civilians from the warzone even more difficult; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the United
2 States Congress to take concrete actions to help with the
3 refugee crisis facing Ukraine and its European neighbors by
4 increasing material support to refugees, both those internally
5 displaced, such as those who have fled to the relatively safe
6 western part of Ukraine, and those who have fled the country, by
7 sending monetary support and supplies to Ukraine and its
8 neighbors who have accepted large numbers of refugees; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States President and
11 Congress are urged to take an active role in assisting the
12 crisis by raising the U.S. Refugee Admissions and Refugee
13 Resettlement Ceilings, making a stronger effort at resettling
14 more Ukrainian refugees into the United States, and allocating
15 more funding in order to support those efforts; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
19 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President
20 Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, members of the Hawaii
21 congressional delegation, Governor, and Mayors of each county.

