11 March 2022

The undersigned organizations write to condemn the invasion of Ukraine and express our deep concern and strong support for the Ukrainian people during this time of crisis. We also urge quick Executive and Congressional action on immigration rules and research programs to aid Ukrainian students and researchers and their families in fleeing the country and establishing themselves elsewhere.

The scientific community of Ukraine is vibrant and contributes to the global advancement of knowledge and the progress of humanity. Ukrainian scientists, engineers, students, educators and their families are experiencing a violent occupation of their nation. Their lives are endangered, and a humanitarian crisis with long-lasting effects is unfolding.

Swift action by the Administration and Congress can make a significant, positive impact on the outcome of this crisis. Providing aid to Ukrainian students and researchers and their families is the right, moral, and imperative action that our leaders must immediately undertake. We are encouraged by and supportive of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) recent decision to designate Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status for 18 months. This is a first step, as is this letter, but more needs to be done, and the scientific community is ready to continue working with the Administration and Congress to do so.
We urge the Administration to take the following steps, as needed:

- Agencies should use research programs—including grants, scholarships and stipends—to facilitate Ukrainian students and researchers establishing themselves in the United States or friendly third-party nations where collaborations already exist;
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) should expedite the issuance of travel documents, diplomatic notes, and letters of support to facilitate the evacuation of at-risk Ukrainian students and researchers;
- USCIS should expedite refugee processing in third countries and support Ukrainian students and researchers awaiting U.S. visa approval without delay;
- The State Department should designate Ukrainian students and researchers as admissible for refugee status under U.S. Refugee Admissions Program Priority 2 Designation;
- Establish mechanisms for U.S. universities and research institutions to quickly enroll and hire these students and researchers; and
- Offer flexibility for Ukrainian students and researchers and their families for F, M, J, and O student and scholar visas.

We urge Congress to take the following steps, as needed:

- Implement any of the above measures legislatively, as needed;
- Consider a legislative solution for Ukrainian students and researchers arriving on humanitarian parole and those currently in the U.S. to apply for legal residence; and
- Pass and fund humanitarian aid legislation to support researchers in Ukraine.

The above steps will benefit not only Ukraine’s research community but the many refugees trying to escape the Russian government’s attack.

We recognize that these are only some of the first steps that should be taken and that much follow-up will be needed by the broader U.S. research community. As always, we are available to serve as a resource as you consider our proposals.

Sincerely,

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Crystallographic Association