



## Call upon the European institutions

# Democracy under Threat in Ukraine We need to take a Stand

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) has been working for many years to support the democratic and European path of Ukraine. Through our activities, our committed members, the collaboration with the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, the CORLEAP, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, we have worked hard to promote democracy and respect for fundamental rights in the country. In order to strengthen our efforts we are presently preparing to open a Local Democracy Agency in Dnipropetrovsk in the near future.

As Europeans, and as promoters of freedom, democracy, and civic participation, we are extremely worried by the authoritarian new laws restricting the freedom of assembly, speech, and association passed on 16th January last.

We call upon the European Institutions and the Council of Europe to immediately take position and insist on an end to all violence, which we firmly condemn at all levels, and to support the start of a dialogue involving also the whole civil society.

**We call upon our members to sign our call to support democracy in Ukraine.**

The Association of the Local Democracy Agency's President, Governing Board and Staff.

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