

## **ALDA GOVERNING BOARD STATEMENT: RUSSIA EXCLUDED FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

*Strasbourg, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

Today we are again confirming the full condemnation of the Russian aggression on Ukraine, and we are calling for the war to stop immediately. The Russian Federation cannot be a member of the Council of Europe and ALDA supports this decision.

We are close to Ukrainians who are still in the country and those who are looking for shelters as IDPs in Ukraine and refugees in other countries.

Considering this and entirely supporting the arguments that are leading to Russian expulsion, we consider that member states should work together and identify new ways of supporting Russian civil society suffering from the Putin's regime. All the core Council of Europe institutions (Congress, European Court on Human Right, Youth Department etc.) should continue their cooperation with opposition forces, independent media outlets and activists that keep on promoting democracy and human rights in Russia under these critical times.

It's well known that Council of Europe membership was the only legal mechanism constraining Russia from using death penalty and we already witnessed several declarations from the high-ranking Russian political representatives about the opportunity to re-introducing this un-human punishment.

ALDA is aligned with the position and the actions of the Congress, as official permanent observer.

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[ALDA's initiatives to support Ukraine](#)

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