

**To Exhibition Manager
Ms Elena Pasoli
Bologna Children's Book Fair**

26 February 2022

Joint Appeal to the Organizers of the Bologna Children's Book Fair

We strongly and unanimously condemn the military actions of the Russian Federation against the independent state of **Ukraine** as a brutal and unjustifiable attack against democracy. The cultural organizations representing and uniting book authors, publishers, and other professionals in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania express their solidarity with the cultural community of Ukraine and the entire Ukrainian nation.

At this difficult hour, we appeal to the organizers of the **Bologna Children's Book Fair** to support Ukraine and its authors and creators by all means possible, and we call for an end to all cooperation with institutions of the Russian Federation and the removal of the national stand of the Russian Federation from the most important children's book event in the world. A country that conducts military action against Ukraine and its people, including children enduring the horrors of war and dying at the hands of the aggressor, and a country that tramples on the values of democracy and freedom, terrorizing and openly denigrating the peoples of Europe, has no place among book fair participants seeking to create a peaceful, critically minded, and open future for the world's children.

Culture is a vital foundation in our democratic society and it must not be torn asunder by terror and political hypocrisy.

**Lithuanian Culture Institute
Latvian Literature / International Writers and Translators house
Estonian Children's Literature Centre**

**Lithuanian Publishers Association
Latvian Publishers Association
Estonian Publishers Association**

**IBBY Lithuanian Section
IBBY Latvian Section
IBBY Estonian Section**

**Lithuanian Writers' Union
Latvian Writers' Union
Estonian Writers' Union**