



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

In Solidarity with the People of Ukraine

The world's attention has been forcibly drawn to the crisis in Ukraine. On February 24, acting on the orders of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Russian military invaded its neighbor, the second largest country in Europe.

Reasons for the invasion stem from Ukraine's desire to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO was founded in 1949 to promote democratic values and provide its members with assistance in defense and other security-related matters; its goal is to prevent conflict by peaceful means, but can use military power should diplomacy fail. 28 European countries, Canada, and the United States are members of the alliance.

Russia, however, is not. President Putin wants to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO. The invasion is a blatant attempt to recapture the might of the former Soviet Union and is a deadly example of Putin's hunger for power and empire-building.

Hostos condemns Putin's war-mongering and authoritarian behavior, reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law and the democratic process, and urges everyone to assist the refugees who are fleeing Ukraine. We send our deepest sympathies to them and to the more than 150,000 Ukrainians who live in the five boroughs of NYC.

In "September 1, 1939," the English poet W. H. Auden reflected on a world that would shortly be torn apart by the Second World War. The poem remains as relevant now as it was over 80 years ago, and its last two stanzas are particularly appropriate:

*All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State*

*And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.
Defenceless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.*

In solidarity with those who seek freedom and justice throughout the world,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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