

## **On the war waged by the Kremlin against Ukraine and the citizens of Ukraine**

*Statement by members of the [Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies](#) and the [Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel](#) and the [Asian Studies Center](#) at Michigan State University*

We condemn the unprovoked and unjust attack on Ukraine, a sovereign state with a democratically elected government. Ukrainian people of all walks of life and all ethnicities, regardless of whether their native tongue is Ukrainian, Russian, Crimean Tatar, or any other language of this diverse, multicultural nation, have taken up arms to protect their land against the brutal onslaught by the Kremlin's troops. As Ukrainians valiantly fight for their lives, they also fight for democracy, in a striking example of a citizenry ready to put everything on the line for values that transcend the personal and the local. We demand an end to the despicable attack led by the autocratic leadership of Russia. We demand action by the international community to stop the assault and avoid the tragic loss of life.

As scholars, we also condemn the distortion and attacks on Holocaust history and memory that Russian President Vladimir Putin has engaged in by claiming that Russia's aim is to "de-Nazify" Ukraine. The history of Jewish life in the region is complex and includes periods of tremendous loss as well as cultural and religious development. The contemporary Ukrainian state has no affinity with Nazism; both President Volodymyr Zelensky and recent Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman are Jewish. Furthermore, a recent bombing of the capital of Kyiv—which damaged the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial site and killed at least five—demonstrates the continued threat posed by the Russian invasion to people, places, history, and memory. We will continue working to provide relief and assistance to Ukrainian refugee students and scholars whose lives have been disrupted by war.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Signed:

Volodymyr V. Tarabara, Professor, Director, Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

Yael Aronoff, Professor in JMC, Director of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Kenneth Waltzer, Professor Emeritus, Former Director of MSU Jewish Studies

Steven Weiland, Professor of Higher Education, Former Director of MSU Jewish Studies

Matthew D. Pauly, Associate Professor of History, Core Faculty Member of the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Affiliate Faculty Member of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Eric Aronoff, Associate Professor, The Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

Laura Yares, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Core Faculty in the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Harry Yuklea, Israeli Visiting Scholar, Serling Institute and Broad Business College

Kirsten Fermaglich, Professor, History Department and Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Gail Richmond, Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Director of Teacher Preparation Programs, and Affiliate Faculty in the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Lynn L. Wolff, Associate Professor of German, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, and Affiliate Faculty in the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Scott Boehm, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Global Studies, Department of Romance & Classical Studies, Affiliated Faculty in the Center for European, Russian & Eurasian Studies

Elizabeth Mittman, Associate Professor of German, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures

Shannon D. Quinn, Assistant Professor of Russian, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures

Norman A. Graham, Professor of International Relations, James Madison College, MSU; former Director, Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor of Sociology, Michigan State University

Geoffrey M. Henebry, Professor, Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences & Center for Global Change and Earth Observations, MSU

Eric Freedman, Professor of Journalism, MSU

Judith Walgren, Associate Director, MSU School of Journalism

Timur Kocaoglu, Adjunct Professor, Michigan State University

Emine Evered, Associate Professor, History

Kyle Evered, Associate Professor, Geography

Karrin Hanshew, Associate Professor of History, Core Faculty Member of the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Affiliate Faculty Member of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Sean A. Forner, Associate Professor, Department of History

Linda Racioppi, Professor, James Madison College

Howard Bossen, Professor of Photography and Visual Communication, School of Journalism

Lynne Goldstein, Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State, University

Yadu Pokhrel, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Amy Simon, Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, James Madison College, Department of History, core member of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Kevin Bartig, Professor, College of Music

Liam M. Brockey, Professor, Department of History