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## **An Urgent Statement on the Situation in Ukraine and Russia**

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Japan Association for Cultural Policy Research

The Japan Association for Cultural Policy Research expresses its deepest concern and its solidarity with all the victims of the invasion by Russian armed forces of Ukraine.

We, who research policies that make possible the free creation, enjoyment, and participation in art and culture, stand opposed to hatred and violence; we adamantly stand on the side of peace. This is not only because we support the UNESCO Charter, but also because we strongly believe that art and culture are the basis for peace and the eradication of prejudice.

We support solidarity, not division. We stand in solidarity of course with all the people of Ukraine, but also with all those in Russia and beyond who seek peace and are opposed to war. Above all, we stand in solidarity with artists and individuals and organizations involved in the arts who respect the diversity of cultures and seek peace. We do not side with those who, without cause, discriminate against or harm the Russian people, nor do we advocate a blanket boycott of Russian culture.

We can in no way accept the attacks on Ukrainian cultural properties and facilities, nor the media blackout against individuals and organizations inside Russia. We strongly demand the preservation of the freedom of expression of the Russian people and the safety of those who are active in the arts.

We support the building of peace and the promotion of mutual understanding through arts and culture. We defend cultural activities that enrich the lives of human beings and create connections that deepen diversity. We shall dedicate ourselves to the preservation of world perpetual peace through research and related activities that will realize cultural policies that support these goals.

Translation: Cody Poulton