



*actionuni* der Schweizer Mittelbau  
*actionuni* le corps intermédiaire académique suisse  
*actionuni* il collegio intermediario academico svizzero

## **Actionuni Statement on Russia's Invasion of the Ukraine**

It is with shock, horror, and disbelief that we have been witnessing the events unfolding in Ukraine since the early hours of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In the name of Actionuni – der Schweizer Mittelbau, representing scientific staff in Switzerland, we express our solidarity with the entire Ukrainian nation and condemn the violence and the military actions of the Russian Federation. Our thoughts and empathy are with the people of Ukraine. We ask for an immediate stop to these senseless acts of destruction and loss of human lives.

Actionuni calls on all Swiss universities and higher education institutions to expressly support Ukrainian universities and the researchers, staff, and students who had to flee because of the threat of violence. Please mobilize resources to offer Ukrainian researchers the opportunity to continue their work in Switzerland and to host students, so they have the possibility to continue their studies.

We also appeal to our colleagues in Russia, fellow researchers and academic staff, to pressure their government into steering away from this path of strife, tragedy, and pain. To those courageous souls in Russia who are protesting: we see you and we thank you!

The shameless and blatantly incorrect revision of the historical and cultural reality of Ukraine expressed by the leader of Russia on February 21<sup>st</sup> is a stark reminder of how dangerous the manipulation of facts and truths by strongmen, tyrants, and despots is. It goes hand in hand with the denial of democracy and freedom. These baseless lies were just a prelude to military actions displaying the uttermost disregard for human lives. It is also a terrible distraction from the dangers awaiting human society in this century: the climate crisis and the strong imbalance of wealth and resources around the world. At the end of this 21<sup>st</sup> century, how will scholars and public opinion remember those who chose the path of war and confrontation? Those who willingly go against the demands and pleas of society at large? Those who do not work together with their neighbors toward a greener, fairer, more diverse and inclusive society? In an age where man-made, short- and long-term causes for our possible extinction are manifold, humanity might not have much room left for errors such as those occurring right now. Those who act only in their egotistic interests, according to their distorted vision of reality will be ill-remembered.

The academic world shows the centrality of collaboration beyond the artificial and arbitrary borders of politics, the importance to work towards solutions and improvement for our future. Research, as many other areas, is fundamentally international and collaborative: in the best of cases, we work together to foster education, knowledge, and understanding. It is our particular responsibility to extend our help to our Ukrainian colleagues and support them.

In the name of the co-presidency and the board of *actionuni der Schweizer Mittelbau*

Martina von Arx  
Co-President

Marco Prost  
Co-President

Hannah Schoch  
Board