
ONLY TRUTH!

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The courage and dedication of the Ukrainian Nation can be seen from the first days of the war. Ukrainians are fighting, above all, for their right to exist as a sovereign political community and an independent state entity. They are fighting for their freedom and the right to decide about their fate. Let us not forget that they are also fighting on behalf of millions of Europeans and the entire Free World. Through their heroism, they have become a symbol of resistance against authoritarian power and the lies and crimes that have become an immanent feature of this power. During the round table meeting of scientists organized by Professor Anatoliy Kruglashov and the Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University we have been asked to answer the question of what the academic community and people of the academy can do to support Ukrainians in their just fight against their country's invasion by a brutal and ruthless enemy, who will not back down from any crime to achieve its goal of the extension of Russkij Mir, which is a kind of civilizational mission by the authorities in the Kremlin.

We are dealing with an opponent that is not only ruthless, but also cynical to the core, intelligently exploiting the weaknesses of the West, the naivety of part of the Western political class and intellectuals, influencing Western societies through numerous lies, half-truths, fake news, and manipulation. Yes, we do live in a chaotic world, that liquid modernity as defined by Zygmunt Bauman. The infosphere is full of false information. Information chaos exists on an unprecedented scale. The voices of reason, based on scientific findings, mix with advice, private opinions and conspiracy

theories formulated by paranoid false prophets. The Internet and social media have become tools of propaganda warfare. The Russian Federation, like no other country in the world, and no other authoritarian regime, has perfectly mastered the art of war in the infosphere. Its propaganda spread by the so-called troll farms, which are in fact professional disinformation spreaders, has shaken the Western world in recent years. The victories and excellent electoral results of right-wing populists in many Western countries, including the USA; Brexit and the development of anti-vaccination movements provide perhaps the clearest examples of Russian influence on the mindset of Western societies.

Our duty as people of the academy, as researchers and scholars, academic teachers and intellectual leaders, is to tell the TRUTH. We must stand on the side of TRUTH and boldly preach it. In the face of Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as the barbaric acts committed by Russian soldiers and mercenaries, we must call acts of bestiality by their proper names. Define crime as crime, rape as rape and clearly indicate who is the aggressor and who is the victim in this conflict. We cannot resort to euphemisms, moral nuances, and attempts to justify the aggressor. No reasons can justify the harm and suffering of the Ukrainian people since the first days of the war. We need TRUTH and it is our responsibility as people of science to proclaim it. Universal TRUTH, one that emerges from the very etymology of the word university - univertitas. In a few months, war will become more commonplace in Western societies, millions of refugees will become part of the local landscapes, perhaps they will begin to bother their hosts and even irritate them. But then we, scientists, and scholars, like no one else, will have the duty to remind everyone about the TRUTH. The truth about war, crime, the drama of the civilian population, the trauma of millions of refugees who live among us in our peaceful, relatively prosperous world. Because our vocation was, is and will be the TRUTH. And although learning the truth can be a great challenge and is achieved at the cost of many sacrifices and intellectual effort, the truth about the war we are witnessing, and millions of Ukrainians who experience it every day, is very simple. And only innate opportunism, stupidity or cynicism can obscure this truth. The TRUTH is a Ukrainian woman repeatedly raped by criminals in Russian uniforms. The TRUTH is an innocent child who, together with their parents, dies in a car from Russian bullets. The TRUTH is a tortured Ukrainian soldier defending his homeland against the invader. The TRUTH is Ukraine, drowning in blood. My words are perhaps too emotional. It is not a scientific treatise, for that is not my intention. I would like us, as an academic community, not to forget to proclaim the TRUTH. Let us not be afraid of the TRUTH. It is the meaning of our academic work. I would like to dedicate this short text to my old colleague and friend from high school, Ruslan Petrylak, who comes from Western Ukraine. I shall never forget his modesty and courage. And stubbornness - literally - to the point of suffering! If Ukraine has millions of such Ruslans, and I believe that it is so, Ukraine will never perish.