

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the membership of the BAPCR we want to offer our Conservation colleagues, museum professionals and all those involved in the protection of cultural heritage, our deepest support and solidarity.

The BAPCR strongly condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russian Federation forces, and the needless violence and destruction brought upon your country. We have witnessed the enormous strength and courage of the Ukrainian people in these terrible times, and we stand with you in opposition to this conflict.

The members who visited you in 2017 on the study trip organised by Katya Belaia-Selzer, have recalled the incredible cultural heritage of Ukraine and wonderful hospitality of all whom they met during their visit. They, and other members, have asked us to include messages of support below. The BAPCR have donated on behalf of all our membership to *The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal* and have encouraged our members to continue to donate and offer support in the weeks to come.

In this uncertain and worrying time, we stand with you, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Amy Griffin and Claire Shepherd  
on behalf of The British Association of Paintings Conservator-Restorers (BAPCR)

**Messages from the BAPCR membership:**

Please add that my thoughts and my prayers are with the Ukrainian people on this hard times. Their courage is inspiring, the whole world is in awe and I have no doubts that they will have a brilliant future ahead.

*Leticia Balle*

Perhaps we could all unite with the power of prayer. This goes a long way. With love to you all suffering at this difficult time in Ukraine, with the hope of peace will come the freedom of this beautiful people and country.

*Maria Teresa Molner*

My prayers are with them and we are sending necessary provisions from Ireland to them

*Ruth Decowell*

Please pass on my support from up here in Scotland as do friends and colleagues I have spoken to in recent days. We are shocked and devastated this can happen in 2022 and our thoughts are with them.

*Maryanne Millar*

We are appalled by this illogic crime happening to Ukraine and to its innocent people. We do hope this will stop immediately and the people responsible for it will pay the price. Our thoughts are with all Ukrainian citizens there and around the world. We have profound admiration for your strength and resilience in fighting this senseless war.

We are doing what we can to support you.

*Nicoletta Tomassi*

There cannot be a more deserving cause than to help support the dreadful plight of the Ukrainian people, who are showing to the rest of the world such courage and humanity in the face of this outrageous and grotesque act of aggression from Russia. I am sure I join with everyone in hoping and praying for the safety of her family & friends in Ukraine.

*Alan Bush*

I was one of the proud BAPCR members who visited Kiev in 2017 and posted on Instagram in 2017. I am lost for words over the situation we are witnessing in the 21st century, my heart goes out to everyone suffering in Ukraine in this travesty. Our Conservation colleagues are in our thoughts & prayers now & always.

*Lucia Scalisi*



Here in the UK, hardly a moment goes by when I, like so many others, am not thinking about the terrible situation in the Ukraine. I am humbled by the strength and fortitude shown by your fellow citizens. My thoughts are with your fellow country people as I fall asleep at night, and my first thoughts are for you all as I wake in the morning, and I realise how very very lucky I am, that all I hear is the birdsong from our garden, and not

the terrifying sounds of warfare. With very warmest wishes to you, and to all the brave people of Ukraine

*Louise Sims*

I am very concerned for all our colleagues in Ukraine, conservators just like us, who have been working hard and must now feel that it is all lost. I would like them to know that we are all thinking of them and above all that they are safe and their families are too. I hope we can support them in any way that is possible. I sincerely hope they are not going through too many hardships and that they can remain optimistic. I just hope it won't be too long before we can all look forward to better times.

*Mary Kempski*

I was on the trip to Kiev which Katya organised. My memories are of the hospitality and enthusiasm shown by all the different conservation and restoration departments we visited and the scope of the work being undertaken. There were incredible sights as well such as the Monastery of Kiev (of the Caves) and Saint Sophia Cathedral which are part of the UNESCO World Heritage site. We also had time to wander the streets, soaking in the atmosphere of the different parts of the city and also learning about their history. It is such a devastating time for the city and its residents and I hope that everyone we met has found shelter and safety and that this beautiful city survives.

*Tina (Christine Sitwell)*



I was one of the party on the BAPCR visit to Kyiv. I would like to send a message to our colleagues in Kyiv and particularly Anna and Svetlana of Kyiv-Perchersk Lavra who gave us such a warm welcome and who organised visits to Kyiv-Perchersk Lavra, the National Academy of Fine Arts Conservation programme, the National Conservation and Restoration Centre of Ukraine and the conservation department of the National Art Museum in Kyiv. Everywhere we went we were given extensive tours of the conservation studios and Anna and Svetlana facilitated a dialogue. It showed us how similar our approaches were to most conservation issues. We met such kindness everywhere. For six of us it was our first visit to Kyiv and we were bowled over by the beauty and extent of the rich cultural history. Of course we must think of people first in this appalling situation but it is heartbreaking to contemplate the destruction of the physical cultural heritage that our colleagues have spent their lifetimes preserving. Dear Anna and Svetlana, we are thinking of you and of all those we met. With heartfelt wishes for your safety and a speedy and satisfactory resolution to the conflict,

*Nicola Costaras*

My heart goes out to all the brave people of Ukraine, in this time of unimaginable horror. The terrible strife you are suffering is in my mind all the time, the injustice, the violence and the desecration of everything we hold dear. Yet I cannot begin to imagine the most desperate anguish and distress you are going through, for yourselves, family, friends and colleagues across the country. I hope that you can stay safe.

*Isabel Horovitz*

Dear friends in Ukraine,

You are in our hearts at this most difficult time and we hope that this message of support brings some small comfort.

Wishing you strength,

*Lucy Odlin*