



## Mayor of the City of Gdańsk

Aleksandra Dulciewicz

Gdańsk, March 10, 2022

Dear Friends, Dear Mayors of Europe,

Gdańsk is a city of freedom and solidarity. In 1939 on September 1, it was the first city in Europe which resisted brutal attack in defense of freedom. In 1980-89 our city brought hope to divided continent. The peaceful popular movement of Solidarity born in the Shipyard of Gdansk led to the first democratic elections in Eastern Europe and then to collapse of the Soviet bloc - which Vladimir Putin still cannot accept. The crucial monument in our rebuilt city still cries out loud: 'Never Again War'. I am sure that every one of us, European mayors, repeated this phrase on numerous occasions.

Today when our Ukrainian sister-cities are turned to ashes, I feel obliged to ask for your solidarity. The XXI century was not supposed to look like this; it cannot look like this. The war needs to stop immediately. Therefore, I kindly ask you to spend one hour of your time to listen to what we in Poland have to say and to perhaps to agree upon a joint statement to our governments and to the EU. **Please accept my invitation to connect online on Monday, March 14 at 13:00 pm.** I am sending you the link, the agenda and the registration form in this email.

I am asking the offices of the Eurocities, the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Metrex, Metropolis, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Committee of the Regions, The Pact of Free Cities as well as the national associations of cities to help me carry this message to you and to ask you to find time in your extremely busy calendars on such a short notice.

I strongly believe that European pressure on Russian and Belarusian governments can be strengthened, and it must be strengthened - if only European values exist not only on paper but in real action. Our continent has a tremendous commercial and political influence and there is no time to waste to use it to its fullest extent.

Please let us think together what else we could do to exert pressure to end the war as soon as possible. Please let us think together how we can stop the genocide in Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities. Please let us unite in order to save lives of our fellow Europeans and to save those Ukrainian cities which have not yet been fully destroyed.

With hope for our solidarity

Mayor of Gdańsk

Aleksandra Dulciewicz