

Thursday, March 3, 2022

RE: Student Solidarity Against War, Imperialism and Colonial Governments

The Continuing Education Students' Association at X University, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union, and the York Federation of Students, and the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario, **jointly representing over 350,000 students**, oppose all wars waged by imperialist and colonial governments and affirm our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and all those facing dispossession, trauma, or fatality due to the ongoing escalation of violence in the region.

It is important to recognize that the current war in Ukraine can be attributed to the role that many settler-colonial, imperialist, and NATO affiliated states have played in further destabilizing the region as part of a much larger geopolitical strategy of imperialist control and power. Russian capitalist interests and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) - which historically functions as an illegitimate and violent tool of imperialism and capitalism - additionally play a large role through invasion, war, and displacement; a strategy that has resulted in the continued suffering of the masses.

The actions of these governments and their contributions to the war in Ukraine, as well as human rights violations globally, must be condemned. In the pursuit of political control, land, resources and power, the masses continue to be mercilessly used as pawns, experiencing the realities of war.

As students living within so-called Canada, a settler-colonial state and Imperialist power that is equally complicit in this war and others, we hold the responsibility of keeping our governments accountable. Even at our own campuses, post-secondary institutions continue to use student money to invest in weapons and arms manufacturers that are contributing to the displacement and death of innocent people around the world.

We additionally recognize the impact that this has on International students, and the larger student community. Many students are facing increased emotional and financial burdens, and are calling for increased community support through financial bursaries, extended residence accommodations, academic accommodations, and mental health resources. Collectively, we join students in calling on our respective university administrations to implement these essential supports on our individual campuses.

As students' unions with a continued commitment to anti-war movements, our thoughts at this time are with the people in Ukraine, Russian war-resistors, and all those experiencing imperialist or fascist violence in the region, and globally. This recent escalation in the crisis is one of many that emphasizes the trauma, violence, and grief caused by war and harmful imperialist geo-political interventions.

In Solidarity,

