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## Institute for Slavic studies and Lotman Institute for Russian Culture: Statement on Russia's war against Ukraine

By instigating a war of aggression against the neighbouring country, Ukraine, the Russian President Putin has carried out a breach of civilisation. He has rode roughshod over all principles and values that make a peaceful coexistence of peoples possible.

We, staff and students of the Institute for Slavonic Philology and Lotman Institute for Russian Culture, condemn this barbaric war and demand that the invaders end it immediately.

All of our work in teaching and in research is based on the recognition of the equality of all Slavonic cultures and population groups. Therefore we reject the pseudoarguments of the attackers on the supposed lack of autonomy of the Ukrainian people and the non-sovereignty of the state of Ukraine as inhuman lies. We know that also large proportions of the Russian people do not support these pseudoarguments.

Our thoughts and feelings are with the people of Ukraine who are bravely defending their country and their own lives. We respect those courageous people in Russia and in Belarus who, despite the repression of the authoritarian regimes, raise their voices against this criminal war.