

An open letter from Nobel laureates

The undersigned Nobel laureates voice our support for the Ukrainian people and the free and independent state of Ukraine as it faces Russian aggression.

In a move that recalls the infamous attack of Nazi Germany on Poland in 1939 (using similar tricks of feigned provocation) and on the Soviet Union in 1941, the government of the Russian Federation, led by President Putin, has launched an unprovoked military aggression — nothing else but a war — against its neighbor, Ukraine. We choose our words carefully here, for we do not believe the Russian people have a role in this aggression.

We join in condemning these military actions and President Putin's essential denial of the legitimacy of Ukraine's existence.

There is always a peaceful way to resolve disputes. The Russian invasion blatantly violates the United Nations Charter, which says "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." It ignores the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, which obligated Russia and others to respect the sovereignty, independence, and existing borders of Ukraine.

Russia's security concerns can be addressed within the framework of the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and the 1990 Paris Charter. To make war, as President Putin and his collaborators have done, is an unwarranted, bloody, and unproductive way to a future.

The Russian invasion will stain the international reputation of the Russian state for decades to come. It will pose barriers to its economy and inflict hardships on its population. The sanctions imposed will restrict the ease of movement of its talented and hardworking people in the world. Why raise this fence between Russia and the world now?

Hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers, Russian soldiers, and Ukrainian civilians, including children, have died already. It's so sad, so unnecessary. We gather in this appeal to call upon the Russian government to stop its invasion of Ukraine and withdraw its military forces from Ukraine.

We respect the calm and the strength of the Ukrainian people. We are with you. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of all, Ukrainians and Russians, who have died and been injured already. May peace come to this piece of our beautiful world.

179 Laureates Supporting Ukraine

Peter Agre	2003	Chemistry
James P. Allison	2018	Medicine
Harvey J. Alter	2020	Medicine
Hiroshi Amano	2014	Physics
Werner Arber	1978	Medicine
Frances H. Arnold	2018	Chemistry
Richard Axel	2004	Medicine
David Baltimore	1975	Medicine
Barry Clark Barish	2017	Physics
J. Georg Bednorz	1987	Physics
Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo	1996	Peace
Paul Berg	1980	Chemistry
Bruce A. Beutler	2011	Medicine
Gerd Binnig	1986	Physics
Elizabeth H. Blackburn	2009	Medicine
Michael S. Brown	1985	Medicine
Linda B. Buck	2004	Medicine
William C. Campbell	2015	Medicine
Mario R. Capecchi	2007	Medicine
Thomas R. Cech	1989	Chemistry
Martin Chalfie	2008	Chemistry
Emmanuelle Charpentier	2020	Chemistry
Steven Chu	1997	Physics
Aaron Ciechanover	2004	Chemistry
J. M. Coetzee	2003	Literature
Elias James Corey	1990	Chemistry
Robert F. Curl Jr.	1996	Chemistry
Angus S. Deaton	2015	Economics
Johann Deisenhofer	1988	Chemistry
Peter A. Diamond	2010	Economics
Peter C. Doherty	1996	Medicine
Jennifer A. Doudna	2020	Chemistry
Jacques Dubochet	2017	Chemistry
Shirin Ebadi	2003	Peace

Robert F. Engle III	2003	Economics
Francois Englert	2013	Physics
Gerhard Ertl	2007	Chemistry
Eugene F. Fama	2013	Economics
Bernard L. Feringa	2016	Chemistry
Andrew Z. Fire	2006	Medicine
Joachim Frank	2017	Chemistry
Jerome I. Friedman	1990	Physics
Leymah Roberta Gbowee	2011	Peace
Andre Geim	2010	Physics
Reinhard Genzel	2020	Physics
Andrea Ghez	2020	Physics
Sheldon Glashow	1979	Physics
Joseph L. Goldstein	1985	Medicine
Carol W. Greider	2009	Medicine
David J. Gross	2004	Physics
F. Duncan M. Haldane	2016	Physics
Jeffrey Connor Hall	2017	Medicine
John L. Hall	2005	Physics
Serge Haroche	2012	Physics
Oliver Hart	2016	Economics
Leland H. Hartwell	2001	Medicine
Klaus Hasselmann	2021	Physics
Harald zur Hausen	2008	Medicine
Richard Henderson	2017	Chemistry
Dudley R. Herschbach	1986	Chemistry
Avram Hershko	2004	Chemistry
Roald Hoffmann	1981	Chemistry
Jules A. Hoffmann	2011	Medicine
Bengt Holmstrom	2016	Economics
Tasuku Honjo	2018	Medicine
Gerardus 't Hooft	1999	Physics
H. Robert Horvitz	2002	Medicine
Sir Michael Houghton	2020	Medicine
Robert Huber	1988	Chemistry
Tim Hunt	2001	Medicine
Louis J. Ignarro	1998	Medicine

Kazuo Ishiguro	2017	Literature
Elfriede Jelinek	2004	Literature
David Julius	2021	Medicine
William G. Kaelin Jr.	2019	Medicine
Takaaki Kajita	2015	Physics
Eric R. Kandel	2000	Medicine
Tawakkol Karman	2011	Peace
Wolfgang Ketterle	2001	Physics
Klaus von Klitzing	1985	Physics
Brian K. Kobilka	2012	Chemistry
Roger D. Kornberg	2006	Chemistry
J. Michael Kosterlitz	2016	Physics
Finn E. Kydland	2004	Economics
The 14th Dalai Lama	1989	Peace
Yuan T. Lee	1986	Chemistry
Robert J. Lefkowitz	2012	Chemistry
Anthony J. Leggett	2003	Physics
Jean-Marie Lehn	1987	Chemistry
Michael Levitt	2013	Chemistry
Tomas Lindahl	2015	Chemistry
Benjamin List	2021	Chemistry
Roderick MacKinnon	2003	Chemistry
David W.C. MacMillan	2021	Chemistry
Barry J. Marshall	2005	Medicine
Eric S. Maskin	2007	Economics
John C. Mather	2006	Physics
Michel Mayor	2019	Physics
Arthur B. McDonald	2015	Physics
Daniel L. McFadden	2000	Economics
Craig C. Mello	2006	Medicine
Robert C. Merton	1997	Economics
Hartmut Michel	1988	Chemistry
Paul R. Milgrom	2020	Economics
Patrick Modiano	2014	Literature
Paul L. Modrich	2015	Chemistry
William E. Moerner	2014	Chemistry
Edvard Moser	2014	Medicine

May-Britt Moser	2014	Medicine
Gerard Mourou	2018	Physics
Denis Mukwege	2018	Peace
Herta Muller	2009	Literature
Ferid Murad	1998	Medicine
Roger B. Myerson	2007	Economics
Erwin Neher	1991	Medicine
Ryoji Noyori	2001	Chemistry
Sir Paul Nurse	2001	Medicine
Christiane Nusslein-Volhard	1995	Medicine
John O'Keefe	2014	Medicine
Yoshinori Ohsumi	2016	Medicine
Satoshi Omura	2015	Medicine
Orhan Pamuk	2006	Literature
Ardem Patapoutian	2021	Medicine
James Peebles	2019	Physics
Arno Penzias	1978	Physics
Edmund S. Phelps	2006	Economics
William D. Phillips	1997	Physics
John C. Polanyi	1986	Chemistry
H. David Politzer	2004	Physics
Stanley B. Prusiner	1997	Medicine
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	2009	Chemistry
Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe	2019	Medicine
Maria Ressa	2021	Peace
Charles M. Rice	2020	Medicine
Adam G. Riess	2011	Physics
Sir Richard J. Roberts	1993	Medicine
Michael Rosbash	2017	Medicine
Alvin E. Roth	2012	Economics
James E. Rothman	2013	Medicine
Bert Sakmann	1991	Medicine
Oscar Arias Sanchez	1987	Peace
Juan Manuel Santos	2016	Peace
Kailash Satyarthi	2014	Peace
Jean-Pierre Sauvage	2016	Chemistry
Randy W. Schekman	2013	Medicine

Brian P. Schmidt	2011	Physics
Gregg L. Semenza	2019	Medicine
Phillip A. Sharp	1993	Medicine
K. Barry Sharpless	2001	Chemistry
Dan Shechtman	2011	Chemistry
Robert J. Shiller	2013	Economics
Hideki Shirakawa	2000	Chemistry
George P. Smith	2018	Chemistry
Hamilton O. Smith	1978	Medicine
Wole Soyinka	1986	Literature
Sir James Fraser Stoddart	2016	Chemistry
Horst L. Stormer	1998	Physics
Donna Strickland	2018	Physics
Jack W. Szostak	2009	Medicine
Joseph H. Taylor Jr.	1993	Physics
Kip Stephen Thorne	2017	Physics
Susumu Tonegawa	1987	Medicine
Daniel C. Tsui	1998	Physics
Mario Vargas Llosa	2010	Literature
Harold E. Varmus	1989	Medicine
Sir John E. Walker	1997	Chemistry
Arieh Warshel	2013	Chemistry
Rainer Weiss	2017	Physics
M. Stanley Whittingham	2019	Chemistry
Eric F. Wieschaus	1995	Medicine
Torsten N. Wiesel	1981	Medicine
Frank Wilczek	2004	Physics
Jody Williams	1997	Peace
David J. Wineland	2012	Physics
Sir Gregory P. Winter	2018	Chemistry
Kurt Wuthrich	2002	Chemistry
Shinya Yamanaka	2012	Medicine
Ada E. Yonath	2009	Chemistry
Michael W. Young	2017	Medicine

Statement of President Martha E. Pollack on War in Ukraine

March 2, 2022



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President Martha E. Pollack issued the following statement (<https://statements.cornell.edu/2022/20220302-ukraine.cfm>)
March 2:

Over the last week, the world has watched Russia’s deplorable and unprovoked invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine, an attack that is both devastating for the people of Ukraine and has deeply impacted countless others, including members of our own community. My heart goes out to each of them.

We have reached out directly to our students from Ukraine and Russia to offer support and resources (<https://global.cornell.edu/about/advocacy#ukraine-russia>). **We have confirmed that no Cornell students, faculty, or staff are registered to be in Ukraine or Russia at this time. Nor do we have any academic programs currently operating in Ukraine or Russia.**

The Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration (<https://www.presidentsalliance.org/>), of which I am a member, has taken the lead in pushing for protections and work permits for Ukrainian students. And I assure you that Cornell will work to offer safe harbor and refuge to scholars and students displaced by the unrest, as we have (<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/12/afghan-women-scholars-find-safe-haven-cornell>) **after other international tragedies.**

Cornell’s rich diversity of lived experience, knowledge, and understanding positions us to convene thoughtful conversations about an extraordinarily difficult moment in history. Professor Emeritus and Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann coordinated a statement (<https://www.nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html>) **signed by 163 Nobel Laureates, which I urge you to read. Numerous Cornell faculty members have spoken to the crisis and its implications in national and global media. And on Friday afternoon, the university is hosting a faculty panel** (https://events.cornell.edu/event/russias_war_on_ukraine_a_new_attack_on_peace_rights_and_sovereignty) **that is open to the public.**

As is always true during times of crisis, our community must, and I know will, rise to support one another. I hope fervently for a rapid, peaceful, and just resolution to this terrible situation.

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