

The Belmont Human Rights Commission Statement on the Russian Federation's Invasion and Aggression Toward Ukraine

The Belmont Human Rights Commission condemns the Russian Federation's attack on Ukraine and stands in solidarity with Ukraine's people. We hope for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. As the invasion continues, we are holding those suffering from the unfolding human tragedy in our thoughts and our hearts.

The atrocities inflicted on the Ukrainian people and the destruction of the country's cities and towns cry out for a halt to this war. Recent reports about thousands of Ukrainians, including children, being forcibly taken into Russia, shocked the world. So far, over four million Ukrainians have fled to other countries for safety, leaving family members and friends behind, and ten million are displaced within their own country, and the lives of all Ukrainians are radically changed forever.

The New York Times reporter, Emmett Lindner, reported on April 3rd, that "within the chaos and disruption, reporters have witnessed moments of humanity and resilience: Neighbors helping one another, families reuniting after panic; people organizing aid." We have witnessed humanitarian outreach to the Ukrainian people by individuals and communities locally and across America.

It is also reported that children of Russian heritage are being bullied in other parts of the country. We cannot respond to acts of war with words of hate. We must redirect the conversation, focusing on kindness, compassion and empathy.

We encourage people to support humanitarian efforts and aid to the region and to refugees fleeing the conflict. We also do not want to forget other asylum seekers and refugees that suffer from the violence and repression that is happening elsewhere in the world.

The Belmont Human Rights Commission is dedicated to fighting discrimination in all forms and increasing visibility and awareness of issues regarding diversity and discrimination in our community. If you have experienced discrimination in Belmont, please contact us at belmont.hrc@gmail.com or call 617-993-2795.