

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

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## APS Mission

**To advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics for the benefit of humanity, promote physics, and serve the broader physics community, we**

- Provide a welcoming and supportive professional home for an active, engaged, and diverse membership
- Advance scientific discovery and research dissemination
- Advocate for physics and physicists, and amplify the voice for science
- Share the excitement of physics and communicate the essential role physics plays in the modern world
- Promote effective physics education for all

**From 2019 APS Strategic Plan**

# APS Values

The core values that drive our mission are:

- The Scientific Method
- Truth and Integrity
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect
- Partnering, Cooperation, and Open Collaboration
- Speaking Out
- Education and Learning

**From 2019 APS Strategic Plan**

## APS Statement on the International Nature of Science

“Science transcends national boundaries and international scientific partnerships are essential for breakthrough discoveries that advance science and benefit all people. Likewise, international scientific cooperation contributes to economic growth and fosters mutual understanding across political and ideological divisions—promoting peaceful relations among partnering nations....

The APS will continue to take action in support of the human and professional rights of scientists in all countries. It continues to encourage scientists to take conscientious and responsible action to protect those rights and to further international scientific cooperation.”

**Approved by APS Council, September 23, 2021**

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## APS Condemns the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The American Physical Society (APS) condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and is gravely concerned about its impact. APS stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian physics community and all people whose safety has been jeopardized, and whose homes, families and careers have been disrupted by the violence. As APS seeks ways to serve its members in Ukraine and Russia during this difficult time, it underscores its commitment to the principles expressed in the [APS Statement on the International Nature of Science and International Scientific Cooperation](#) and declares its support for the rights and freedoms conveyed in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) for all people. APS calls for a halt to hostilities and a peaceful end to the crisis.

**Approved February 26, 2022**

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## APS Decries Attacks on/near Nuclear Facilities

The American Physical Society decries the Russian military operations upon or near all nuclear facilities in Ukraine and especially the recent attacks upon the Zaporizhzhia power plant. Nuclear facilities contain highly radioactive nuclear material. Attacks upon or nearby any nuclear facility could result in direct damage to its safety systems or indirect damage to its support systems. Such combat risks the release of radioactive material and potential danger to millions of people. The APS underscores its support for the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Director General's call for "restraint from all measures or actions that could jeopardize the security of nuclear and other radioactive material, and the safe operation of any nuclear facilities in Ukraine."

**Approved March 8, 2022**

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## General Perspectives

- **Situation is ever-changing**
  - Legal constraints are evolving with increasing sanctions
  - Community perspectives vary on engagement with Russia
  - Will continue to assess needs & interests of those affected and how we can best serve
- **Underlying APS philosophy: ensuring and facilitating physicist-to-physicist communication**
  - Are offering free APS membership and journal access to Ukrainian physicists (in Ukraine and to those who have relocated)
- **Will continue to monitor and refine policies**

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## Initial Outreach

- **Consulted with Ukrainian science leaders in U.S.**
- **Wrote letters of support**
  - Ukrainian Physical Society
  - National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
    - Professor Anatoly G. Zagorodny, NASU President (a Physicist!)
- **Connected with Polish Physical Society leaders**
  - On the “front lines” of helping physicists in Ukraine and/or coming to Poland
  - What are the pressing needs? How can APS help?
  - Can we do more through partnering with other EU physics societies?



# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## Additional Outreach to European Physical Societies

### ■ Ongoing outreach/coordination with European partners

- European Physical Society
- UK Institute of Physics
- German Physical Society

### ■ Seeking perspectives from partners

1. What is the impact of EU sanctions on your operations (publications, journal subscriptions, etc.)
2. What are your thoughts about government restrictions on collaboration with Russian entities?
3. Do you envision scientific collaboration as a useful tool for diplomacy?
4. How is your organization considering serving Ukrainian (and Russian) members?

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## Access to Publications, Meetings, Member Benefits

### ■ U.S. Government sanctions on Russia and Belarus

- Might affect engagement with physicists in Russia and Belarus
- Seeking legal advice – impact on certain APS operations
- Reaching across APS to develop comprehensive approach

Publications, Membership, Meetings, Development

### ■ Series of steps

1. Determine legal requirements regarding the sanctions and APS operations
2. In grey areas, understand our liabilities/vulnerabilities
3. Continue engagement consistent with the law, in line with our mission

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## Guidance on Ways to Help

- **Guidance from U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS)**
- **Highest priority - support for short-term scholar visits *in the region***
  - Many who have left Ukraine do not want to leave the region—loved ones are still in Ukraine
  - Many Ukrainians are expected to stay in Ukraine to help with the resistance and
  - Efforts to relocate Ukrainians inadvertently suggest that APS expects Russia to prevail
- **NAS partnership with the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS)**
  - Identifying opportunities for short-term scholar visits in the region
  - Seeking funding for stipends (~\$6,000US/scholar)
  - Information on APS “Ukraine Response” website
- **For programs outside the region, contact Scholars at Risk ([scholarsatrisk.org](http://scholarsatrisk.org))**

# APS Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

## APS Values

The Society is committed to the principles expressed in the

## APS Statement of the International Nature of Science and International Scientific Cooperation

In particular, APS *“will continue to take action in support of the human and professional rights of scientists in all countries.”*

**These are our APS values!**

We will do our best to support and aid our physics colleagues across the globe, as best as we are able.

Keep your eye on [aps.org/programs/international/ukraine.cfm](https://aps.org/programs/international/ukraine.cfm)