



Karol V. Mason
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March 2, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Invasion of Ukraine

As a community committed to justice, in a city with the largest Ukrainian population in the nation, we stand with the people of Ukraine as they fight for freedom. This attack violates international law and the senseless loss of life, destruction of cities and towns, and countless traumas incurred will be felt in Ukraine and beyond for decades to come.

In good times, when one member of our community is honored, we are all uplifted. Similarly, when one member of our community suffers, we all feel their pain. In the days since the attack—as we’ve seen innocent people wounded, killed, and forced from their homes—I’ve received letters from our students, many of whom have relatives in Ukraine, expressing their concerns and outrage over this invasion.

These talented students are in constant fear of losing family members and friends as this horrific attack continues. They’ve had difficulties contacting their loved ones back home, spent countless hours watching devastating news footage, felt helpless as relatives conveyed their worries, and even considered going back to Ukraine to help fight for their country’s freedom. Their emotions run the gamut from sad and confused, to angry and frustrated. Knowing that these students are tormented, worrying about their families and their homeland, is simply heartbreaking.

I ask that everyone give these students the support, understanding, and grace that they need to navigate these challenging times as best as they can. I also urge anyone who is experiencing feelings of fear or anxiety to make use of our counseling resources. Students can set up a confidential meeting with a trained mental health professional, free of charge, through our [Wellness Center](#). Faculty and staff can access free, confidential, emotional health and wellness services, through the [CUNY Work/Life Program](#).

We must never lose sight of the fact that the fight for freedom is more powerful than fear and that courage is contagious. We hope and pray for the people of Ukraine.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

