**[Date]**

**[Recipient Name]**

**[Recipient Position]**

Sent by Email

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe.

Dear [MP NAME].

I [FULL NAME], located at, [FULL ADDRESS], appeal to you, our lawful representative Member of the NZ Parliament regarding

# New Zealand’s Response to the Massacre of Ukrainian Civilians by Russia

The invasion of Ukraine, now in its [second month], has become one the greatest crises of our generation. We have observed multiple acts of alleged war crimes. We have seen attacks target over 70 hospitals (including a maternity and children hospitals) that care for the most vulnerable. We watched the tragedy of Mariupol unfold, where 90% of buildings have now been damaged or destroyed. We gasped seeing civilians being targeted across the country, including by use of illegal weapons that are designed to inflict maximum civilian harm.

Now, as Russia retreats in some areas, we have finally seen the true horror; indiscriminate massacres of civilians, including in Bucha where up to 300 in a city of 36,000 have been murdered, in some cases after being tortured and bound, and then thrown into mass graves or strewn across streets. This pattern has been repeated in surrounding towns. EU leaders and experts have described these events as genocide. Unfortunately, this is just one of the first reclaimed areas, so this will only be the start of the discovery of such atrocities. It is even more appalling that Russia has sought to blame Ukraine for civilian deaths calling it a “forgery aimed at denigrating the Russian army”.

Understandably, over 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled the country, and over half of children have been forced to move from their homes. These events are incomprehensible, but we must do our best to deter further violence.

Such extraordinary circumstances require the world to stand shoulder to shoulder and take meaningful actions. The actions we have taken to date are commendable, but we are falling behind our allies, including Australia, which has provided in aggregate AUD211m of aid, including lethal military aid. To keep in step, we should have provided $40m, but have only committed [$11m as of beginning of April].

**Request for Assistance**

I am writing this letter to seek your urgent assistance in Parliament with the following matters:

1. **Aid:** 
   1. Australia has provided AUD211m of aid in aggregate, including lethal military aid. To keep in step, we should increase New Zealand’s aid to $40m, including military aid.
   2. Following Australia’s footsteps, permit donations to approved aid organisations that are directly supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary to be tax deductible.
2. **Sanctions:** 
   1. To have any chance at peace, Russia’s economy must not be able to sustain this war, and therefore sanctions must go further and be broader, to align with our allies, and send a clear message that Russia must be brought to account for its reprehensible and abhorrent actions.
   2. Sanctions must stay in place until Ukrainians territorial integrity and sovereignty has been fully restored, repatriations paid, and safety and security guarantees for Ukraine from other countries have been established.
   3. For individuals who openly support Russian aggression, prevent entry to NZ under temporary visas and block new visa applications through a good character test.
3. **Immigration:**
   1. Expand the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa so that applicants are also able to sponsor non-immediate family members.
   2. The 2022 Special Ukraine Visa should have a process to provide approval for children to travel without their parents where parents are not able to travel, and without approval of all parents (acknowledging that parents may be unreachable for any number of reasons, so approval may not be forthcoming). Mechanisms to expedite adoption processes by close family members in New Zealand should also be considered.
   3. Allow for recipients of the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa, who had already commenced tertiary study, to continue their study in NZ at domestic rates.
   4. The 2022 Special Ukraine Visa requires sponsors to financially support recipients of the visa. In some situations, this could impose onerous burden on New Zealand families which may be beyond their means. We propose the establishment of a humanitarian relocation support fund, to assist recipients of 2022 Ukraine Special Visas, and available to those who can evidence an urgent and genuine need.
   5. Establish a new two-year work visa for Ukrainians who meet the requirements of New Zealand’s long term skill shortage list to bring in highly skilled workers in areas such as IT, medicine, engineering, construction and agriculture. The visa should have an expedited application process, without having a job offer prior to being awarded the visa.
4. **War Crimes:** 
   1. I acknowledge the government’s efforts at the UN and to support investigations and referral of war crimes to the International Criminal Court. We must continue these efforts by recognising the massacres and genocide, by supporting our allies (US and Australia) claim that President Putin is a war criminal and prosecute him for the war crimes committed in Ukraine. However, we must acknowledge the limitations of these institutions, and seek a special international tribunal to investigate and hear all claims at the conclusion of this war.
   2. Given the overwhelming evidence of war crimes, as recognised internationally, we should follow the lead of the international community by expelling Russian diplomats. Additionally, given Russia’s failed promises and its attempts to use the UN to attribute blame of civilian violence to Ukraine, we should expel the Russian Ambassador, as the value of any ongoing dialogue has proven to be limited and only provides legitimacy.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of the matters set out above.

Yours faithfully,

Ngā mihi mai

[Name of Sender]

[Electorate of Sender]

[Sender Email]

[Sender Phone Number]