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Mahi For Ukraine (Spokesperson)  
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The Right Honourable Chris Hipkins  
Prime Minister of New Zealand  
Office of the Prime Minister  
CC: Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta

*Sent via email*

**Subject: Recognition of the Holodomor as Genocide**

Tēnā koe Prime Minister and Minister Mahuta.

I hope this letter finds you both well. I am writing to bring an important matter to your attention—an issue of historical significance and moral responsibility. I kindly request on behalf of the Ukrainian Community in NZ your support and consideration in recognising the Holodomor as a genocide committed against the Ukrainian people during the years 1932-1933.

As we continue the yearlong commemoration of the **90th anniversary** of the Ukrainian Holodomor, it is important that the Holodomor be recognised as genocide by the New Zealand government, just like it was by our allies (see details enclosed below).

The current war in Ukraine had been described by many as “genocide.” While the war of Russian aggression against Ukraine is indeed genocide, **Russian aggression 90 years ago must also be recognised as genocide.**

The war of Kremlin aggression against Ukraine must be stopped! Today the world recognises the viciousness of Russian aggression and expansionism.

Unfortunately, those Russian traits have existed for centuries and affected Ukraine in 1932-1933 during the Holodomor, or ‘murder by starvation’. Stalin’s forced famine-genocide killed an estimated 7-10 million Ukrainians. The deliberate policies of forced collectivisation, confiscation of crops, and the denial of aid created unbearable conditions that led to widespread starvation and immense suffering. The Holodomor stands as one of the darkest chapters in human history, where the systematic targeting of a specific ethnic group resulted in immense loss of life and destruction. The leadership of the Soviet Union committed it with the aim of eliminating Ukrainian resistance to the regime and its attempts to build a Ukrainian state independent of Moscow, and we are witnessing today that their aspirations in that regard have not changed. The tactics being used in Ukraine by Russia today bear many similarities to those used 90 years ago. And just like back then, Russia's war against Ukraine is a real threat to global food security.

Now more than ever it is crucial that New Zealand, as a free democratic nation, takes this step. Whenever, the Ukrainian people rose up to fight for their freedom and sovereignty, Russia, in all its forms, the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union and now the Russian Federation, has tried to eliminate Ukraine from existence and history, and take all that is ours for their own. It has not been successful in that mission in the past and it will not be successful now.

Over twenty countries, including Ukraine, the US, Canada, Australia, and some European nations, have officially recognised the Holodomor as an act of genocide. By acknowledging this tragic event as

genocide, we not only honor the memory of those who perished but also send a strong message that New Zealand stands firmly against such atrocities and upholds the principles of human rights and justice.

Recognition of the Holodomor as genocide by the New Zealand government would serve multiple purposes. Firstly, it would bring awareness to this historical tragedy and promote a deeper understanding of the immense suffering endured by the Ukrainian people. Secondly, it would provide solace to the descendants of the survivors and victims, affirming that their pain and loss have not been forgotten. Lastly, it would demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to upholding human rights and condemning acts of genocide, reinforcing our country's values on the international stage.

I urge you, Prime Minister, to initiate the necessary steps for New Zealand's recognition of the Holodomor as genocide. By taking this vital step, New Zealand can join the ranks of nations that have already recognised the Holodomor for what it truly was—a **crime against humanity**.

All genocides must be recognised and acknowledged to effectively learn from history and to not repeat such atrocities in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust in your wisdom and leadership to give due consideration to this request. Recognising the Holodomor as genocide would be a testament to New Zealand's commitment to justice, human rights, and historical truth.

Eternal memory to the Victims of the Holodomor and the victims of the current Russian Genocide against Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Turska

**Spokesperson**

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*Enclosed below is a list of countries and organisations that have officially recognised the Holodomor as a genocide.*

## Appendix

### Countries:

Ukraine	Peru
United States	Ecuador
Canada	Colombia
Australia	Paraguay
Poland	Moldova
Hungary	Mexico
Lithuania	Belgium
Estonia	Brazil
Latvia	Bulgaria
Czech Republic	France
Portugal	Germany
Vatican City	Iceland
Romania	Ireland
Georgia	

### Organisations:

- European Parliament (In 2008, the European Parliament passed a resolution recognizing the Holodomor as a crime against humanity.)
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Organisation of American States (OAS)
- World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisations
- Ukrainian World Congress (UWC)
- International Association of Genocide Scholars
- United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)
- The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly ([22 May 2023](#))

*It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive, and recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide may have been granted by additional countries and organisations that I am not aware of.*

Additionally, many countries have signed declarations in statements at the United Nations General Assembly affirming that the Holodomor was as a "national tragedy of the Ukrainian people" caused by the "cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime". Similar statements were passed as resolutions by international organisations such as the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO).

Countries to have signed declarations for the United Nations on the Holodomor include Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, and the United States.

Notably, **Australia** was one of the earliest to do so:

Resolution #680 was adopted by the Australian Senate on 30 October 2003, stating:

The Senate

- a) Notes that 2003 is the 70th anniversary of the enforced Famine in the Ukraine caused by the deliberate actions of Stalin's communist government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
- b) Recalls that an estimated 7 million Ukrainians starved to death as a result of Stalinist policies in 1932–33 alone, and that millions more lost their lives in the purge that ensued for the remainder of the decade;
- c) Notes that this constitutes one of the most heinous acts of genocide in history;

On 22 February 2008, the Australian House of Representatives issued a statement on the 75th Anniversary of Ukrainian Famine, which stated:

**75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine That the House:**

- (1) notes that 2007 marks the 75th anniversary of the Great Ukrainian Famine—Holodomor of 1932–33, caused by the deliberate actions of Stalin's communist Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
- (2) recalls that an estimated 7 million Ukrainians starved to death as a result of Stalinist policies in 1932–33 alone, and that millions more lost their lives in the purge that ensued for the remainder of the decade;
- (3) notes: (a) that this constitutes one of the most heinous acts of genocide in history; (b) that the Ukrainian Famine was one of the greatest losses of human life in one country in the 20th century; and (c) that it remains insufficiently known and acknowledged by the world community and the United Nations as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation and its people, but has been recognised as such by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine); (4) honours the memory of those who lost their lives; (5) joins the Ukrainian people throughout the world, and particularly in Australia, in commemorating these tragic events; and (6) submits that the Australian Government support a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations, which may be submitted by the Government of Ukraine, that the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932–33 be recognised as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation and its people.