

**Joint appeal of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy to the national parliaments of the EU and NATO Member States, to the European Parliament, Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.**

Russian propaganda which has replaced all the mass media in Russia presents imminent threat also to other democratic countries, where it is misusing the freedom of speech, trying to jeopardize their security and attacking the key values of freedom and democracy.

The propaganda is not aimed at disseminating objective information and is a dangerous weapon in hands of the Russian totalitarian regime. Its goal is to **distort public and personal awareness of citizens** through obvious lies and manipulations which harm inevitably individual and collective mental health, promote hatred and systematically use the language of hostility and call for violence.

Russian propaganda is an essential part of the war machine exploited by Russia as a physiological and information weapon against Ukraine and the whole democratic world, trying to avoid accountability for its aggressive foreign politics violating fundamental provisions and principles of the international law. Its purpose is to deny all responsibility for war crimes committed in Ukraine and to justify the war aimed at eliminating independent Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian people.

Russian propaganda has been dehumanising Ukrainians for years and began to encourage the genocide of the Ukrainian people and to justify such genocide. Without such propaganda machine fuelled with hatred the genocide committed by the terrorist state would not be possible.

Such instruments of informational terrorism as aggressive war propaganda, distortion of historical truth, substitution of concepts, dissemination of **fake** threats, outright and hidden lies, which were exploited by Russian propagandists, cannot be allowed in a democratic society merely by using pluralism as the cover.

We call on democratic countries to ignore activities organised taken by the Russian authorities on the occupied territories with regard to press conferences where Russia tries in every way to justify its own crimes against the civilian population of Ukraine by inventing fake facts and using fabricated evidences and dummy witnesses.

Russian propaganda and Russian mass media should be completely banned in all democratic countries. Media outlets controlled by the Russian criminal regime for a long time have not observed any ethical and professional journalistic standards, their employees are not journalists, and such outlets cannot be qualified as mass media. Russia uses mass media only as a cover for the achievement of its aggressive political goals.

Russian propagandists should be prosecuted as they are directly responsible for the war propaganda and hatred promoted against Ukraine and other democratic countries. The assets and property of Russian propagandists should be confiscated and handed over to victims of 'Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine.

We call for stronger sanctions against Russian institutions involved in the creation of fake, propaganda, manipulation in the mass media, and extended sanctions on those involved in developing and disseminating them, as well as on members of their families.

We call on international media not to cooperate with the former employees of Russian propagandistic media and not to expose hereby your audiences to the risk of becoming a target of Russians psychological influence.

We call to stop broadcasting Russian media through satellite communication systems since they are used by the Russian Federation exclusively for achieving aggressive political economic and military goals, entirely ignoring the need to comply with journalistic standards of ethics. We call on satellite communication providers to engage Ukrainian broadcasters instead.

We call on all mass media to stop the dissemination of Russian propaganda narratives and not to provide Russian propagandists with a platform for distribution of lies and fakes. We call on social networks administrators, video

hosts and other media platforms to stop the dissemination of Russian fakes and propaganda, make additional efforts to verify information published in such resources, to reveal Russian lies and manipulations and not to promote mass spreading by Russian propaganda and its agents of the language of hostility and calls for violence.