



## **Statement of the Mediterranean Ombudsmen on the escalating crisis in Ukraine**

The Association of Mediterranean Ombudsman (AOM) expresses its deep concern about the suffering caused by the war in Ukraine and asks all parties involved to take immediate action to safeguard in an effective and comprehensive way the fundamental rights of the civilian population.

AOM offers its full support to the efforts of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner of Human rights to offer relief and protection to the victims of this tragedy.

We also express our appreciation for the work that colleagues in the neighbouring countries have undertaken, with a view to ensuring that fundamental rights are respected and essential services to those displaced are made available.

With respect, in particular, to the thousands of refugees and displaced civilians, we ask all our members to exert all their influence to their respective national authorities in order to establish safe corridors and centers or reception offering accommodation, meals clothing and access to health services and medicines to all those who had to leave their homes.

We strongly recommend that arrangements be put immediately in place, so that families separated are reunited as soon as possible.

We call upon the Human Rights Commissioners of Ukraine and Russia to ensure that international law and standards are upheld for the treatment of all those in need, the homeless, the disabled, children, the elderly, civilians but also combatants who are imprisoned or detained.

As ombudsmen in the Mediterranean basin, we strongly and unequivocally declare our commitment to international legality, the rule of law and democracy, for the prosperity of all nations of the region.