

## **TMS Statement Concerning the Ongoing Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

*January 19, 2023*—Russia continues to perpetuate an unconscionable escalation of its multi-year aggression toward the sovereign state of Ukraine. TMS joins the outraged international community in opposition to Russia’s actions and in support of Ukraine. TMS commends the Ukrainian heroism and courage in the face of the continued Russian attacks.

TMS is especially concerned for the safety and well-being of members of the materials science community and for their families who live in Ukraine, who fled the country as refugees, or who have loved ones at risk. The TMS Board of Directors has heard concern and even alarm from TMS members deeply troubled by the violation of Ukraine sovereignty, the loss of life, the senseless destruction, and the resulting humanitarian crisis. Some members have asked the Board to take action by immediately banning Russian scientists, engineers, and their employers from participation in TMS activities. Other members are equally compassionate but advocate for TMS to be “neutral,” stay out of geopolitics as it historically has, and refuse to weigh a country’s homeland policies as a metric of the scientific merit and character of a resident scientist or engineer.

With considerable deliberation, the Board of Directors believes that taking punitive action against individual members would only add more unfairness to an already unfair situation. Any feasible sanctions TMS might take against Russian TMS members would neither modify their government’s aggressive practices nor alleviate the enormous challenges being experienced by their Ukrainian counterparts. TMS would only hurt more members of the materials science and engineering community.

Therefore, rather than act against Russian members, TMS will instead act for Ukrainian members. For the duration of this unjust conflict instigated and waged by Russia, TMS will provide complimentary membership to any otherwise eligible materials science and engineering professional living in—or in temporary refuge outside of—Ukraine. Likewise, any student or professional member living in Ukraine who wishes to attend TMS2023 and/or TMS2024 may claim free registration. An impacted individual may apply by contacting [membership@tms.org](mailto:membership@tms.org).

TMS believes its stance is one of constructive action and hopes that these measures may give some light to those professionals who are enduring their darkest days.