We express our full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and with the Ukrainian dentists.

For many of us still unimaginable at the beginning of the year, a brutal war has been raging in the middle of Europe for more than two months. The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces and the shelling of cities with rockets and artillery, as well as aerial bombardments, have now cost countless lives and caused millions of people to leave their homes and flee to other countries.

While those leaving Ukraine are mostly women and children, their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons remain behind to fight with great bravery for Ukraine in order that it continues to exist as a democratically governed free country. Their courage and determination deserve the greatest respect.

The world looks on with dismay and bewilderment at a war that is increasingly taking on the character of a campaign of extermination, and which does not even spare civilians. The horrific images from Bucha and other Ukrainian cities testify to a new dimension of violence perpetrated against those who are unable to defend themselves.

The European Regional Organisation of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO) declares its full solidarity with the inhabitants of this fiercely contested country and especially with the dentists in Ukraine and their practice teams. The willingness to support the refugees endures and ERO appeals to colleagues in its member states and organisations to continue actively to support the donation and aid campaigns, some of which have been initiated by the dental profession.