

Statement on Ukraine and the Threat of Chemical Weapons

Organized by the CWC Coalition

Members of the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition (CWCC) and other interested parties, listed below, are deeply concerned about the possible use of chemical weapons in Russia's war against Ukraine.

Any use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) – chemical, biological, or nuclear – has no place in any conflict and risks escalating the war far beyond the widespread destruction that Ukraine is currently suffering.

The use of toxic chemicals in war has been considered taboo for nearly a century and is completely prohibited under the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague has inspected and verified the complete elimination of Russia's declared 40,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, as required under the CWC.

Ukraine is a party in good standing with the CWC, but Russia has been accused of using deadly nerve agents recently for assassinations in the United Kingdom and Russia, and has closely allied itself with the Syrian Arab Republic which has used chemical weapons numerous times over the course of its decade-long civil war.

We call upon Russia, in the strongest possible terms, to respect its solemn obligations under the Geneva Protocol and the CWC not to contemplate, let alone use or threaten to use, these globally banned weapons of mass terror. We also call on all parties to refrain from making unsubstantiated CW allegations for political advantage.

This statement does not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Coalition, nor does it necessarily reflect the views of the affiliated organizations/employers of the individuals listed below unless otherwise stated.

Signed by:

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