

**TO:** The Grand Valley State University Student Body

**FROM:** The Grand Valley State University Student Senate

**SUBJECT:** **Regarding Developing Global Conflict**

**DATE:** March 6th, 2022

**cc:** President Philomena V. Mantella



We, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the Student Body, would like to address the recent and continuing attacks on Ukraine.

Firstly, we formally renounce the acts of violence occurring in Ukraine, including all acts of violence upon global geographic communities on the grounds of cultural/ethnic identity, race, and religion.

We also recognize that recent and developing events heavily affect both Ukrainian and Russian students at GVSU, who may be experiencing indirect repercussions as a result.

Student Senate supports all students in our campus community throughout this time, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background.

Student Senate recognizes in our campus community that the recent and developing events that have unfolded within Ukraine have left many feeling uncertain about tomorrow, unable to focus, and uncomfortable about the current state of global affairs.

We know this and see this because as students, we feel the same complicated array of heavy emotions and feelings ourselves.

In a time of uncertainty, let us be reminded that what we can be certain of is each other. As Lakers we have leaned on each other throughout this year for comfort and support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a challenging year academically and emotionally.

Especially during this time of global turmoil and great mental strife, we offer a reminder that mental health must always be at the forefront of our priorities as students. If you or a fellow Laker is struggling through these times, we sincerely encourage you to reach out and utilize one of the resources below for support.

* Contact the Padnos International Center for support for international students
  + gvsu.edu/pic
* Contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The OMA will also be offering community support space in the OMA Lobby (KC 1240) during March 7-11 between 10am-2pm with additional dates if needed.
  + gvsu.edu/oma
* Contact the Military and Veterans Resource Center for support for service members, veterans, and their families
  + gvsu.edu/veterans
* Report a Campus Climate Incident
  + gvsu.edu/ccc
* Set up an appointment for individual or group therapy at the University Counseling Center
  + (616) 331-3266
* Submit a Care Report for yourself or another student to access additional resources
  + gvsu.edu/care

Please take care of yourself and check in on loved ones during these challenging times.

**Respectfully submitted on this sixth day of March, 2022**

**Grand Valley State University Student Senate**

*Autumn Mueller, President*

*Jim O’Neil, Executive Vice President*

*Eldon Pearson, Vice President for Public Relations*