



Bochum, 24. February 2022

Statement of the Osteuropa-Kolleg NRW

The members of the Osteuropa-Kolleg NRW strongly condemn the war against Ukraine instigated by the Russian regime under President Putin, whose aim is to shift territorial borders in Europe by military force. After the breach of international law and the criminal annexation of Crimea, as well as the de facto occupation of parts of eastern Ukraine in 2014, the rulers in the Kremlin are now once again in the process of attacking the sovereign state of Ukraine. Caught up in their backward-looking utopia of neo-imperial revenge, the Kremlin rulers are once again bringing suffering and death to the Ukrainian people. They are also depriving the people of Russia, who would like to live in peace with their neighboring peoples, of their future.

Since its foundation, the Osteuropa-Kolleg NRW has set itself for an equal and peaceful dialogue of all peoples of Eastern Europe in culture and science. We reject the allegedly historical arguments of the Kremlin, with which today's Ukraine is denied the right to its own statehood, as a lie and a misrepresentation of history.

We in NRW, especially in the city of Bochum, which has been the twin city of Donetsk for decades, feel a deep bond with the people of Ukraine and call on Russia to refrain from any military force against the sovereign state of Ukraine. We stand up for a peaceful and democratic development in Eastern Europe and support all measures of European politics to restore peace in this region.