**It’s in Our Collective DNA: “Give Peace a Chance”**

We encourage our friends and colleagues around the globe to post this letter or their own creative ideas and strong words in support of our deep commitment to peace and a united front against perpetrators of war. These statements should ideally be posted on every institutional website.

We, scientists, engineers, physicians, musicians, artists, writers and other members of academic and cultural institutions express our deepest concern about the military conflict in the Ukraine. The consequences of this conflict will threaten the safety and well-being of every human being in the entire world. We call for an immediate withdrawal of the Russian military from Ukraine and a peaceful resolution of the crisis. We urge the leaders of the world to follow the timeless advice from these exceptional minds and souls.

“Orbiting Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful our planet is. People, let us preserve and increase this beauty, not destroy it”, Yuri Gagarin

“There was never a good war or a bad peace”, Benjamin Franklin

"The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation", Bertrand Russell

“Today, we are truly a global family. What happens in one part of the world

may affect us all”, Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama)

“War is so unjust and ugly that all who wage it must try to stifle the voice of conscience within themselves”, Leo Tolstoy

 “You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist”, Indira Gandhi.

“The world is our house”, Chinese Proverb

“Give peace a chance”, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, later used by Yitzhak Rabin

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less”, Marie Curie

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace", Jimi Hendrix

 “An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind.”, Mahatma Gandhi

 “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding”, Albert Einstein

“You bring me the deepest joy that can be felt by a man whose invincible belief is that Science and Peace will triumph over Ignorance and War, that nations will unite, not to destroy, but to build, and that the future will belong to those who will have done most for suffering humanity” Lou Pasteur.

This message is aimed to reach the Russian people and our counterparts in Russian cultural, educational, academic, medical, business and other institutions independent of age, levels of education and success. We believe in your innate intelligence and commitment to common sense.

To show that we stand behind these ideas and values, we are making a strong commitment to a broader international cooperation to preserve and improve the quality of human life everywhere. We pledge to improve the scientific and cultural cooperation between Russia, Ukraine, and the US as a starting point for a world-wide collaboration with our brothers and sisters around the world. This cooperation may include building joint research collaborations in areas such as AI for Good, Mathematics and Physics, Art and Music foundations, Global Health and Medicine and last but not least crisis aversion centers. All these prospects would be wiped out by a military conflict.

We stay united in our fight against pandemics, cancer, global health challenges and climate change that threaten our very existence. We also stay united in acknowledging our gratitude for being members of the great human race and pledge respect for all nations and people on earth. Let us give our creative minds a chance to triumph over our fears.

Let us not allow the ugly part of history to repeat itself. Before WW2 certain factions within the USA sided with the Nazis to battle communism. We are now witnessing attacks on the intelligence and energy levels of the US President by the right. This provokes the left and they respond harshly. Mr. Putin is simply using manipulative but transparent tactics to create division that prevents the world from showing a united and powerful front for peace against the perpetrators of war. This is not the time for left or right when we need to think about right and wrong and when freedom is facing an existential threat.

It’s going to be a war of attrition that will require sacrifices. Resolve and a united front matter and this is not the time to be divided. Political alignments should never be made to support the ultimate evil that threatens peace on our planet. We should all say, loud and clear. We want peace. However, we will do anything, at any cost and as long as it takes to secure peace and freedom, fighting against anyone who violates these basic human rights. We support the Ukrainian people and stay united against this unacceptable aggression independent of any previous differences.