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8 July 2026

Mrs Kirsty Leigh Coventry, OLY
President
International Olympic Committee
Maison Olympique
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear Madam President,

The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain unequivocally condemns the decision of the International Olympic Committee Executive Board to provisionally lift the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee.

We note the IOC's explanation that its decision follows the removal from the Russian Olympic Committee's membership of regional sports organisations established within occupied Ukrainian territory. While this may address the specific procedural basis upon which the Russian Olympic Committee was suspended in October 2023, it does not take account of the death and suffering that Russia continues to inflict on a peaceful nation.

Russia's unlawful war of aggression against Ukraine is explicitly targeted on innocent civilians without any regard for human life. Around 500 Ukrainian sportspeople, including Olympic athletes, have been killed by Russian attacks, while more than 600 sports facilities have been damaged or destroyed. An unknown number of Russian athletes are either members of, or have links to Russian armed forces. Even under a neutral flag, they represent a state that has no regard for international law or basic humanity.

The United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and demanded that Russia cease its use of force. The International Court of Justice, in its Order of 16 March 2022, indicated that Russia must immediately suspend its military operations in Ukraine.

Against this background, it is difficult to reconcile the IOC's decision with the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter, which place sport at the service of a peaceful society founded upon respect for human dignity. No matter how your committee seeks to justify its decision, international sport does not exist in a political vacuum.

By restoring the Russian Olympic Committee while Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues, the IOC has decided to promote a narrative which is diametrically opposed to the broader principles of international law, peace and human dignity that the Olympic Charter exists to promote.

The issue is therefore not whether a procedural defect has been remedied. It is whether the Olympic Movement is prepared to uphold its own principles when they are tested by an ongoing war of aggression. Your decision tells the world that the unjustified deaths of Ukrainian athletes have no importance against the rights of athletes sponsored by an aggressor state.

We therefore demand that the International Olympic Committee reverses its shameful decision and reaffirms - through actions as well as words - that the principles of the Olympic Charter cannot be compromised while Russia continues its unlawful war of aggression against Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,



Petro Rewko MBE
Chair



Fedir Kurlak MBE
CEO

cc. Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
HRH The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association
Dame Katherine Grainger DBE, Chair, British Olympic Association
Jon Dutton OBE, Chief Executive Officer, British Olympic Association
Vadym Guttsait, President, National Olympic Committee of Ukraine