



Dear ICSD Board Members, ICSD Secretariat and Regional Presidents.

This letter is written with support from all 8 deaf sports federations in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

We are appalled by the Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus' military attacks on Ukraine, a sovereign state. We see horrific images from Ukraine, where buildings are blown up, civilians being killed, and people are fleeing from the country. We find it very unacceptable and demand international condemnation of Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus.

We demand an exclusion of the Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus from the upcoming Summer Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

The IPC has just announced that Russian and Belarusian athletes have been excluded from the upcoming Paralympics in Beijing, China, and the IOC has previously recommended excluding Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus from all international sports. Therefore, we believe that there should be no doubt that we must stand together with the Olympic movement.

We are basing our demand with the following arguments:

1. The participation of the Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Deaflympics is funded by the governments of the two countries. The very same governments waging war. One cannot start a war with one hand and pretend that nothing has happened and then greet each other kindly at a sporting event on the other hand.
2. We cannot establish a distinction between the deaf athletes from Russia and Belarus from the abuses currently taking place in Ukraine, because the abuses do not distinguish between deaf athletes and the rest of the Ukrainian population.
3. Due to the war caused by the Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus, the Ukrainian athletes have no opportunity to practice under safe and optimal conditions - unlike Russian and Belarusian athletes. We certainly do not believe that this in the accordance with the Olympic spirit.
4. We do not believe that it makes any difference whether Russian and Belarusian athletes participate under their own or a neutral flag. It is the sport federations that represent the different countries - not the colours of the countries' flags. Therefore, the sanctions must be targeted at the federations and not the colours of the flags.

Our demand was decided on an online meeting on 2nd March 2022, with the participation of 7 of 8 nations from the NBDSF. The eighth nation did not attend the meeting, but fully supports the announcement.

We are aware that ICSD will hold a board meeting on Saturday 5th March 2022. We expect you to discuss the situation and make a statement hereafter immediately.

With the desire for all the best for ICSD and the athletes all over the world.

On behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries; Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden – see next page.



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