



# LIETUVOS LITERATŪROS VERTĖJŲ SAJUNGA

## Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators

The General Meeting of the Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators

### **Appeal to Fellow Translators, Writers, Arts and Culture Workers and All People of Good Will**

Vilnius, 17-03-2014

We live in times when the military aggression of Russia is crossing the sovereign state of Ukraine and threatening to approach each of us in any country of the world faster than we would like. Disregarding bilateral agreements and international treaties, the Russian government has used military power to occupy the Crimean peninsula that belongs to Ukraine, prepared a hasty annexation of Crimea by employing a "referendum" at gunpoint, and has no qualms about its actions. In addition, it is also extending its bear-paws towards the eastern and southern lands of the Ukraine. Europe is already at war. The only question is what price we are going to pay for that war. The polite and diplomatic reaction of the Western countries and international organizations is taken by the aggressor only as an expression of their weakness and essentially only encourages the aggressor to heed no limits, and supports his cynical attitude that no repercussions are forthcoming. The world is repeating the lesson from the 1930s that Europe failed to learn. The new aggressor is mocking the rest of the world, believing only his own truth - the stronger prevails!

Dear colleagues all over the world, people of arts and culture, we appeal to you in the firm belief that we should all together take upon ourselves the hard humanitarian duty to use any way possible to lobby our governments, the government representatives elected and appointed by us, so that the flames of military aggression that has so far covered only Ukraine can be efficiently extinguished and not reach neighboring countries, setting the whole planet on fire.

We, the translators, who understand our mission as bridging gaps between the nations of the world, condemn Russia's military aggression in Ukraine, the occupation and annexation of Crimea, and encourage everyone not to succumb to the aggressive propaganda and divisive misinformation from the Kremlin, not to remain indifferent to the brutal breaches of international law that threaten security all over Europe and rumble with visions of a Third World War. We express our solidarity with Ukraine, a Ukraine that is defending its independence and territorial sovereignty, and we also offer our respect to the Russian people of culture and of good will who dare to protest against the illegal and aggressive actions of the Kremlin.