



**ENABLE Group**



**ENABLE WORKS**



28 February 2022

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Dear Foreign Secretary,

### **Upholding the human rights of people who have a learning disability in Ukraine**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice President of Inclusion Europe to request urgent attention and assistance by any means available to you to secure the human rights of people who have a learning disability in Ukraine during this time of crisis.

Inclusion Europe is a membership-led movement which fights for equal rights and full inclusion of people who have a learning disability and their families in all aspects of society. It is a coalition of 78 member organisations representing millions of people who have a learning disability in 39 European countries, including the United Kingdom, where its members are ENABLE Scotland, Learning Disability England and All Wales People First, and in Ukraine, where its member is the All-Ukrainian NGO Coalition for Persons with Intellectual Disability.

In addition to those who live in their communities, more than 80,000 children and thousands of adults who have a learning disability live in “care institutions” across Ukraine, and Inclusion Europe’s Ukrainian member organisation has been in regular communication over recent weeks about their very serious fears for the human rights and wellbeing of those individuals and their families in the event of a Russian invasion.

The events of recent days have now placed Ukrainian people who have a learning disability in a highly vulnerable position and at grave risk of harm. I know that you will agree with me that it is every country’s obligation to protect those at risk, and that the international community should do everything in their powers to support them in that task.

Led by our partners in Ukraine, Inclusion Europe members are joining together to call for:

- Secure supplies of daily necessities to people who have a learning disability, including medicines;
- Civil protection information in easy read and accessible formats to help people who have a learning disability understand the measures they need to take in dangerous situations;
- Monitoring of the situation in “care institutions” to ensure people are not abandoned or harmed;
- Specific support through humanitarian organisations for people who have a learning disability, whether living in the community or in institutions.

I write to ask that you take urgent action to utilise any diplomatic or humanitarian channel available to you to secure the safety of highly vulnerable individuals in institutions in Ukraine. I am happy to liaise with your officials and the office of Inclusion Europe to establish information about the location of institutions, and to support in any way that we can.

Yours Sincerely,

**Theresa Shearer**  
CEO, ENABLE Group  
Vice President, Inclusion Europe

**Samantha Clark**  
Chief Executive,  
Learning Disability England

**Joe Powell**  
Chief Executive,  
All Wales People First