



Statement of solidarity with the Ukrainian people and with those Ukrainians with intellectual disabilities and dementia

The National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (“the NTG”), while an American organization, stands with the Ukrainian people affected by the unlawful Russian invasion and by the resulting humanitarian crisis. The world has come together to find both symbolic and beneficial ways to express support and provide supplies and health services needed to aid the Ukrainian people in their time of need. We are especially concerned for the safety and welfare of those individuals with intellectual disabilities who are living with dementia as well as their families and other caregivers. We know that this invasion will have devastating effects on adults with special needs and their caregivers.

We recommend that as the world’s support continues to grow, a portion of the support and funds will be dedicated to those Ukrainians who are primary caregivers and who are less likely to be able to safely leave Ukraine. Further, caring for persons who have been displaced and are now or who will be outside of Ukraine also will require special attention. Inconsistent care and supports, change of environment, potential for abuse and neglect, and uncertainty and fear can lead to unpredictable and possibly reactive catastrophic behaviors and worsening of the skills and functions of persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia. In the best of times, assuring equity for vulnerable populations who cannot speak for themselves is difficult. This crisis compounds the difficulty.

The NTG stands ready to increase the awareness and recognition to provide special support and relief to individuals who are displaced and now homeless, or who remain in their homeland stranded by the invasion. Our generation will be remembered for what we did to assist those who are most in need. The NTG remains committed to advocate for and draw attention particularly to those persons with special needs during this Ukrainian catastrophe and beyond.

We recommend the following European websites for more information:



<https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/>



<https://www.easpd.eu/>



<https://www.ds-int.org/>

Also, please refer to the position statements from these organizations:

- [Alzheimer Disease International](#)
- [European Disability Forum](#)
- [European Down Syndrome Association](#)
- [Inclusion International](#)
- [Inclusion Europe](#)
- [International Disability Alliance](#)