



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2022

In Ukraine's mighty national anthem, *Shche ne vmerla Ukraina*, we hear a hymn to freedom that has united the Ukrainian people for generations. Today, as you mark your 31st year of independence, Australia stands with Ukraine in your struggle to defend your homeland, preserve freedom, and achieve peace.

Ukraine's resistance against Russia's brutal invasion is a test of the world's commitment to the ideals of democracy and the integrity of international borders. Australia's solidarity with Ukraine rests in our belief that international law must prevail to preserve the sovereignty of all nations and uphold the basic human value of self-determination.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address to Australia's Parliament in March invited Australia to aid Ukraine in defying those who would destroy its *mriya* – its dream – of freedom. My message of support when I visited Kyiv in July was unequivocal and steadfast – we are proud to commit military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

On your Independence Day, Australia celebrates the contribution of Australians of Ukrainian descent, and the more than 3,800 Ukrainians we have welcomed since February this year. You share gifts of culture, faith and history that enrich us all. We are one with you, and we share in your sorrow at the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine.

Together, we celebrate the bonds of humanity through which we will surely find the peace we seek.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anthony Albanese'.

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia

24 August 2022