



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

On Independence Day, I reiterate Australia's support of the people of Ukraine in your struggle against Russia's illegal and immoral invasion. Australia stands with you in your fight.

When I visited Kyiv in July 2022, I was uplifted by the courage of Ukraine's people in the face of Russia's aggression and brutality. As war has continued, no doubt this strength has sustained you through the darkest days.

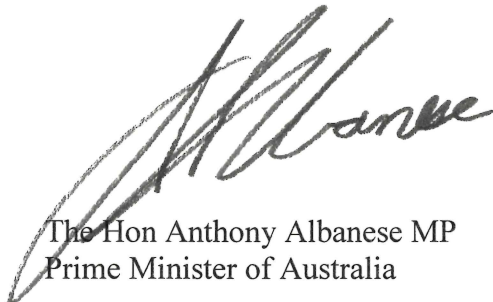
Australia pays tribute to the sacrifices you have made to defend your nation and its independence. Though it comes at a heavy cost, your fight in the name of sovereignty and your efforts to uphold the international rule of law are shaping history. We admire your bravery and your resilience.

On this day in 2022, President Zelenskyy's words of strength in the face of uncertainty inspired us all:

'... justice has not completely left our cynical world. And it is still not force that wins in it, but truth. Not money, but values. Not oil, but people'.

Australia opens its heart to the people of Ukraine. We welcome those who have fled the invasion and we embrace the Ukrainian people who have made a home here in Australia over generations. The Australian Ukrainian community is part of the Australian family, and we share in their sorrow at the brutality being wrought.

May the spirit of Independence Day inspire the people of Ukraine in your efforts to defend your sovereignty and emerge victorious.



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia

24 August 2023