

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address New Zealand Parliament

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(New Zealand Parliament, 2022e)

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On Wednesday 14 December 2022, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke before Parliament, appearing by video link from Ukraine to address Members of Parliament about the Russian invasion of his country. The New Zealand House of Representatives has strongly condemned Russia's actions and stands in support of Ukraine.

"I am grateful to you, dear friends, for the fact that New Zealand was one of the first countries to support Ukraine in its struggle for independence and justice."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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Address of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Source: Parliament TV. [Video duration: 12 min 27 sec]

President Zelenskyy spoke to Parliament on Wednesday 14 December, and after his speech, Party Leaders spoke in response. You can watch his speech, and the responses to it, by **streaming them on Parliament on Demand** (<https://ondemand.parliament.nz/>). You can also **read these speeches in Hansard** (https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb_20221214_20221214_04). For media wishing to use footage of President Zelenskyy's speech, you are welcome to do so, but please note that PTV footage remains the property of the Office of the Clerk. You are free to use PTV footage so long as you comply with **the rules set out on this page** (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/information-for-the-press/parliament-tv-terms-and-conditions/>).

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Since the beginning of the war in February 2022, President Zelensky has spoken to many assemblies all over the world, including Australia, Canada, and Ireland. He has used these addresses to condemn the actions of Russia, and ask that more material support be given to Ukraine to help defend itself. *

New Zealand's Response to the Invasion of Ukraine

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, New Zealand's Parliament has shown its support for Ukraine in a number of ways. On Tuesday 1 March, Parliament agreed on a motion which condemned the invasion of Ukraine, called on Russia to cease all military operations in Ukraine and withdraw, and to express New Zealand's strong support for the people, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine. New Zealand has also joined 39 other countries in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court.

The (https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_120010/russia-sanctions-bill) **Russia Sanctions Act** (<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0006/latest/LMS652885.html>) was passed under urgency on 9 March 2022. The bill established a framework for New Zealand to implement and enforce sanctions against Russian individuals and entities that are responsible for or involved with the invasion of Ukraine.

In July, then-Speaker of the House, Rt Hon Speaker Trevor Mallard was joined by current speaker, Rt Hon Adrian Rurawhe, Hon Judith Collins, Hon Jenny Salesa, and Ukrainian Members of Parliament; Yevheniia Kravchuk, Yulia Klymenko, and Anastasia Radina, for a webinar conversation. The Ukrainian members took this opportunity to discuss the situation in Ukraine and share their stories with the New Zealand public. **You can watch a recording of this webinar here** (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/parliamentary-relations/ipr-news-and-events/join-us-for-a-conversation-with-ukrainian-members-of-parliament/>).

At the 145th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Rwanda, a delegation headed by Vanushi Walters MP was involved with drafting the Assembly's resolution condemning Russia's actions. The resolution called for "an immediate end to the Russian military occupation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, restoring its territorial integrity back to its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, and consequently the rule of international law". The New Zealand delegation was a cross-party group including Hon Jacqui Dean MP, Ibrahim Omer MP, and Hon Scott Simpson MP.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BiDLNVMrg>
Visit YouTube to see the video description <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BiDLNVMrg>

Speaker's Address to International Crimea Platform's Parliamentary Summit Source: Office of the Clerk. [Video duration: 5 min 04 sec]

In October, Speaker of the House Rt Hon Adrian Rurawhe was invited to speak at the **first Parliamentary Summit at the International Crimea Platform** (<https://crimea-platform.org/en/parliamentary-summit>), held in Zagreb, Croatia. Though he could not attend in person, Mr Rurawhe appeared via video. He spoke about all the actions New Zealand has taken in support of Ukraine, and again expressed New Zealand's solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

// Although New Zealand is distant geographically, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Ukraine //

Rt Hon Adrian Rurawhe

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New Zealand's Government has also provided military, diplomatic, legal, and humanitarian support to Ukraine. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is providing infantry training for Ukrainian military personnel. In November, Minister of Defence Peeni Henare visited Ukraine, where he met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Oleksii Reznikov, for bilateral talks.

To learn more about the support that the New Zealand Government is offering to Ukraine, **[please click here to visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website for more information](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/ukraine/russian-invasion-of-ukraine/)** (<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/ukraine/russian-invasion-of-ukraine/>).

[Click here to read more about the New Zealand Parliament's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in English and Ukrainian](https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/new-zealand-parliament-s-response-to-the-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-%D0%B2%D1%96%D0%B4%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%96%D0%B4%D1%8C-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%83-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%97-%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D1%96%D1%97-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B3%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8F-%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%96%D1%97-%D0%B2-%D1%83%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%97%D0%BD%D1%83/) (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/new-zealand-parliament-s-response-to-the-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-%D0%B2%D1%96%D0%B4%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%96%D0%B4%D1%8C-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%83-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%97-%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D1%96%D1%97-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B3%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8F-%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%96%D1%97-%D0%B2-%D1%83%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%97%D0%BD%D1%83/>).

**Correction: This feature originally incorrectly stated that former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard was the first foreign head of Government to speak to Parliament, which is incorrect. Ms Gillard spoke to a gathering of MPs in the debating chamber while Parliament was not sitting. Rules to hold State Occasions, such as addresses from foreign leaders, were developed in 2014. President Zelenskyy's address marks the first time they have been used.*
