

Dear Members of the Governing Board,

On behalf of the Nordic Library Associations, we are writing to request clarification regarding the current membership status of the Russian Library Association (RLA) within IFLA.

In the light of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and reports of integration of institutions in occupied territories, we are concerned about the possibility that libraries located on occupied Ukrainian land may have been incorporated into the Russian Library Association's network.

We therefore respectfully ask the Governing Board to:

1. Confirm whether the Russian Library Association still is a member of IFLA; and
2. Investigate whether the Russian Library Association has, formally or informally, included libraries situated in occupied Ukrainian territories in its membership or activities.

Such developments, if confirmed, would raise serious concerns in relation to IFLA's Code of Ethics, that promotes intellectual freedom, and the responsibility of libraries and library associations to act with integrity, independence, and respect for human rights.

As organisations based in the Nordic region, and as part of the broader European community, we strongly affirm that Ukraine's cause is our cause. The defence of democratic values, cultural heritage, and international law in Ukraine is inseparably linked to the principles on which our own societies are built.

Given IFLA's commitment to these principles, it is crucial that the Federation ensures that no membership or institutional affiliation within IFLA legitimises or normalises the occupation of Ukrainian territory.

We look forward to your response and to learning what steps the Governing Board will take to address this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Helene Öberg, President Swedish Library Association
Silvia Ernhagen, Secretary General, Swedish Library Association
Michel Steen-Hansen, Director, Danish Library Association
Helene Volder, President, Norwegian Library Association
Laura Rissanen, President, Finnish Library Association
Juha Manninen, Director, Finnish Library Association
Thorny Hlynsdottir, President, Upplysning – Icelandic Library Association