



Lviv City Mayor
Andriy Sadovyy

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To the Director-General of the UNESCO
Audrey AZOULAY

Honourable Ms. Director-General!

Availing myself of the opportunity, let me express to you my respect and address with the following.

Lviv has been a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network for more than 8 years, being awarded with the honorary title of the City of Literature. This status has provided Lviv with a possibility to work closely with other powerful global cultural centres, which belong to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, and Ukrainians particularly appreciate the Network's support during the russia's open war against Ukraine, which is aimed to occupy Ukrainian territories, to distort and destroy Ukrainian culture. But the recent news concerning inclusion of the russia city of veliky novgorod to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2023 has saddened and outraged Ukrainians.

The successful cooperation of Lviv with other UNESCO Creative Cities Network partners was focused to profess the universal values of civilised world, preserve and enhance cultural heritage, research and respect the diversity of cultural identities of the global community. However, keeping in mind the russia's brutal and unjustified war against Ukraine, the inclusion of the city of veliky novhorod in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network justifies in the eyes of Ukrainians and in the eyes of entire international community the discord, death, pain and suffering that russia brings to Ukraine.

We hope that you will do everything possible to ensure a proper review of inclusion of velikiy novgorod to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, and to take appropriate measures to prevent the aggressor state from becoming a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, values of which are ignored by russia.

Taking into consideration our long-term partnership, I would like to renew the assurances of my high respect and our intentions for a further cooperation in the creative field, preserving and enriching cultural heritage, which is vital for our community especially in times of war.

With respect

Andriy SADOVYY