**[Date]**

**[Recipient Name]**

**[Recipient Position]**

Sent by Email

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe.

Dear [MP NAME].

I [FULL NAME], located at, [FULL ADDRESS], appeal to you, our lawful representative Member of the NZ Parliament regarding

# New Zealand’s Response to the Massacre of Ukrainian Civilians by Russia

The invasion of Ukraine, now in its [11th month], has become one the greatest crises of our generation. We have observed multiple acts of alleged war crimes. We have seen attacks target hundreds of hospitals (including a maternity and children hospitals) that care for the most vulnerable. We watched the tragedy of Mariupol unfold, where 90% of buildings have now been damaged or destroyed. We gasped seeing civilians being targeted across the country, including by use of illegal weapons that are designed to inflict maximum civilian harm.

Now, as Russia retreated in some areas, we have finally seen the true horror; indiscriminate massacres of civilians, including in Bucha where up to 300 in a city of 36,000 have been murdered, in some cases after being tortured and bound, and then thrown into mass graves or strewn across streets. This pattern has been repeated in surrounding towns and other regions of Ukraine. EU leaders and experts have described these events as genocide. Unfortunately, this is just one of the reclaimed areas, and only the start of the discovery of such atrocities. Russia’s ongoing and brutal military actions in Ukraine, apart from being illegal, provide fresh evidence of terrorist activities on an almost daily basis, primarily through continuous attacks on civilians with the intention of achieving a political goal. This is one of the basic definitions of terrorism.

The Russian state views its aggression against Ukraine as a decisive battle against the West.

Understandably, millions of Ukrainians have fled the country, and over half of children have been forced to move from their homes. These events are incomprehensible, but we must do our best to deter further violence.

Such extraordinary circumstances require the world to stand shoulder to shoulder and take meaningful actions. Condemnation at the level of political rhetoric is not enough. The actions we have taken to date are commendable, but we are falling behind our allies, including Australia. To keep in step, we should continue providing aid (including military aid) as well as supporting Ukraine on all fronts including sanctions, immigration, and diplomatic relations.

**Request for Assistance**

I am writing this letter to seek your urgent assistance in Parliament with the following matters:

* xxx\*

*[\*here include any of the support points that you believe are most important for New Zealand to pursue,* [*consider Mahi for Ukraine advocacy asks outlined here*](http://www.mahiforukraine.com/advocacy/)]

Thank you for your urgent consideration of the matters set out above.

Yours faithfully,

Ngā mihi mai

[Name of Sender]

[Electorate of Sender]

[Sender Email]

[Sender Phone Number]