

Berlin-Karlshorst, 22 February 2024

**Statement on two years of war against Ukraine –
What does the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine mean for the work of the
Museum Berlin-Karlshorst?**

Since 24 February 2022, only the Ukrainian flag has been raised in front of the museum, not the Belarusian, German, Russian and Ukrainian flags as before. This is a sign that the museum's employees continue to condemn the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms.

The museum feels for all the people in Ukraine who suffered under the Russian war of aggression. Since March 2022, the museum has been a member of the "Aid Network for Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Ukraine". This network, which is affiliated with KONTAKTE-KOHTAKTbI e.V., helps survivors of the German occupation from 1941 to 1944 who are now victims of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine.

For 30 years, the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst has been committed to a differentiated view of the history of the Second World War. In doing so, it has always been dealing with the forms of remembrance, national memory narratives and also the instrumentalisation of history for political purposes. The Russian government is currently misusing the history of the Second World War for its war propaganda. The museum is strictly opposed to such instrumentalisation. In its work, it is committed to an unbiased exchange on different views of history and memories. To this end, the international discussion series "History in Conflict" was launched last year and will be continued in 2024.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus criminalise statements on historical facts and interpretations if they deviate from the interpretations provided by the state. This destroys the founding consensus of the co-operation that began 30 years ago. However, it is essential for the museum's work to discuss the different perspectives on the past in an open and liberal-democratic atmosphere. The museum is therefore intensifying its dialogue with colleagues who are continuing their work in exile. It must be noted with concern that even these spaces for free research in Germany are under threat from Russia.

The dialogue with Russian and Belarusian museums has been interrupted. As much as a continuation of this dialogue is desirable in the future, it is not possible under the current political conditions. There are, however, contacts with Ukrainian museums and archives that will be important in the future. Nevertheless, the Russian and Belarusian perspectives on the history of the Second World War remain important points of reference in the museum's work.

It will also be important in the future to continue to incorporate existing contacts with institutions in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the Caucasian and Central Asian countries into the museum's work.