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4 April 2022  
Ref: SD25907/CS

Dear Eloise, Dylan, Celeste, Hettie, Lennon, Alessio, Elsa, Isy, Lilian, Macy, Esme and Olivia,

I cannot tell you how touched and impressed I was to receive your letter, sharing your grave concerns regarding the terrible situation in Ukraine.

I was so pleased to hear that you have been discussing the crisis in school as well as following the news at home. It is indeed a tragic situation, and I feel as disturbed and concerned about it as you do.

Like you, I am desperate to do all that I can to resolve the situation, and to help the people of Ukraine as they navigate the devastating events in their country.

It is a wonderful idea to donate what you can to help the Ukrainian refugees – I know there are many locations within Derbyshire Dales, which are accepting items to take to those in need.

It is also fantastic that your school, Stanton in the Peak Primary, is offering to take Ukrainian children. I have no doubt that you would welcome them as your friends, and do all that you can to assist them in settling into their new environment, especially given the terrible circumstances that they have fled from.

As your Member of Parliament, I am working with both the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and Senior Ministerial colleagues to assist with Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, and I will be sure to raise the specific points that you have mentioned.

As a Government, we have been working with fellow NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) members and other countries to address the issues that you have raised, including tough sanctions on Russia, as a means to make Vladimir Putin aware that the actions he has taken are completely unacceptable – an unprovoked act of aggression.

In addition, our Home Office, who are responsible for those wishing to enter our country, have set up a scheme to welcome Ukrainian refugees into our country. Whilst I understand your suggestion to waive all visa restrictions, I must explain that whilst helping those fleeing Ukraine, we must continue to include security measures to prevent those who pose a threat to our nation, from abusing the system in order to enter the country. That said, the Home Office has a new system in place to enable a straightforward process to allow us to help those in genuine need.

**Proudly serving the Derbyshire Dales as your MP**

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It is very interesting to me that you mention protecting Russian troops who do not want to fight against their neighbours in Ukraine, because it is so important to separate the behaviour of their Leader, Vladimir Putin, from the Russian population as a whole. Just because Vladimir Putin and some may believe the invasion of Ukraine is justified, it does not mean that all Russian people are bad.

Whilst our country cannot be involved in military action within Ukraine, which could escalate into an even more serious situation, we are doing all that we can to help the Ukrainians fight for democracy and freedom, which should be the right of every human being on our planet.

Thank you so much for taking the time to write to me, and for voicing your concerns. You clearly have a deep and levelled understanding of matters surrounding the crisis in Ukraine. I am filled with admiration for you, and your Headteacher for having the courage and sense to speak out about the things that concern you.

I will be in touch with your Headteacher to see if it would be possible for me to come to your school and to meet you all. In the meantime, let us keep those who are suffering in Ukraine close to our hearts.

Best wishes,



**Sarah Dines MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Derbyshire Dales**