

Resolution for UNA LASER AGM on 10th December 2022

Allegations of Genocide under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)

UNA London and SE Region:

- a. Noting that *Article II of the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* defines genocide as covering:
 - i) Killing members of the group,
 - ii) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group,
 1. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part,
 - iii) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group,
 - iv) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
- b. Noting that several UN Member States, including the UK (5 August 2022), have now exercised their right to invoke *Article 63 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)*, filing their declarations of intervention on this matter,
- c. Noting the statement by G7 Foreign Ministers, claiming that “Russia’s indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population and infrastructure constitute war crimes” and confirming their “determination to ensure full accountability for these and crimes against humanity” (*Munster Declaration*, 4 November 2022),
- d. Noting that the Russian Federation has ratified the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict but not its 2nd protocol which relates to the responsibilities and duties of military commanders in the field,

Urges the UK government to:

1. Press the ICJ to proceed in its deliberations on this matter with urgency,
2. Support international lawyers in their attempts to hold the government and military of the Russian Federation to account,
3. Use the fora of the UN and UNESCO to remind the Russian Federation of the widely shared interpretations of the 2nd protocol of the 1994 Convention protecting cultural property, which indicates that states are bound both by treaty and by customary law to respect the cultural property of their enemies.