

Open letter to The Great Moscow Circus in Australia

Dear Mr Edgley,

As the world has reacted with horror and disbelief to the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, we urge your company, which owns “The Great Moscow Circus”, to reflect on the pain and distress this name gives Ukrainians, Australian-Ukrainians and other communities in the NT, supporters of Ukraine. We would like to hear confirmation that your company has no links to the Russian Government or Russian businesses, and actively show the circus supports Ukraine.

The war unleashed in Ukraine by the Russian Federation has created untold misery. The entire 40 million nation of Ukraine is fighting for its freedom against Russian aggression. 13 million people have fled their homes, including 4.3 million children. Whole towns and villages have been almost completely destroyed. Civilians spend their nights in bomb shelters. During the day, kindergartens, schools, hospitals and water and electricity supplies are shelled by missiles. Tragically, thousands of civilians have lost their lives, including 217 children.

There is truly nothing great about this war.

Almost a thousand companies around the world have withdrawn from Russia, or limited their operations, to make a strong stand against the war. Entities such as Eurovision, Spotify and Apple have dissociated themselves from Russia.

Join these companies in asserting that your circus does not support the invasion of Ukraine. Acknowledge there might be ambiguity around the circus’ support for Moscow or Russia due to its name. Show that your business has the integrity and decency to respect the current situation in Ukraine and the impact Russia’s war has had on millions of people, global security and the international rules based order.

Please provide at your earlier convenience:

- Any publicly available information that the company has no relationship with the Russian Government or Russian business agencies and condemns the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine.
Western companies who imply an association with Russia need to prove they have no relationship with the Russian government and/or businesses, and are in no way financing the war effort.
- At the circus grounds, feature public statements of support for Ukraine, display Ukrainian blue and yellow banners & encourage donations to the [Ukraine Crisis Appeal](#)
Send a strong signal to circus visitors that you support Ukraine. Feature public statements that you do not support Russia’s war in Ukraine.

We urge you to join us. Entire community here and all over Australia would love to see that you **#StandWithUkraine** and support freedom, peace and human dignity. We would love to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Orest Zadvirny, Principal Executive Officer of Ukrainian-Australian Association of Northern Territory, representative for NT of Australian Ukrainian Commercial Chamber (AUCC)

Stefan Romaniw OAM and Kateryna Argyrou, Co-Chairs,
Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO)

Peter Bongiorno, President, Ukrainian Community of QLD Inc.

Dan Wolody, President, Ukrainian Council of NSW

Mykola Mowczan, President, Ukrainian Association in Western Australia

Slawko Kohut , Association of Ukrainians in Victoria

Frank Fursenko, Association of Ukrainians in South Australia

Manfred Mletsin, President, Estonian-Australian Association of Northern Territory

Reinis Dancis, President, Latvian Community of Darwin