

February 27, 2022

Andrew Parsons
President, International Paralympic Committee

Cc Thomas Bach
President, International Olympic Committee

Dear Mr. Parsons:

We write, as professors of sports and human rights, in the face of the unprovoked, illegal, and barbaric invasion of Ukraine by Russia, with the open, shameful complicity of Belarus. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to stop the participation of Russian and Belarusian parasport athletes, coaches, and officials from the forthcoming Beijing Winter Paralympic Games.

We applaud the condemnation of the Russian invasion you have issued, along with your call upon the international and national federations to move events scheduled for Russia and Belarus to other countries.

But we feel these steps do not go far enough to demonstrate the sports world's abhorrence of the invasion.

While we strongly support the Olympic and Paralympic ideal of peaceful intercultural exchange with all peoples through sport and culture, because of our differences, as Coubertin expressed it, we believe that ideal is impossible when nation states engage in war.

It would be a tragic stain on the Paralympic Movement if Russia and Belarus were to participate in Beijing.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink are displayed horizontally. From left to right: 'Grant Jarvie' with a horizontal line underneath; 'Bruce Kidd' in a cursive style; and 'Peter Donnelly' with a horizontal line underneath.

For

Peter Donnelly, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto

Grant Jarvie, Professor, Universities of Edinburgh and Visiting Professor University of Toronto

Bruce Kidd, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto