



This open letter is intended to bring to the attention of the broader UK public the concerns voiced by many Russian-speaking people residing throughout the United Kingdom.

We come from different backgrounds and different countries. Some of us are ethnic Russians, others are not. Some are originally from Russia, others come from different former Soviet republics such as Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states, Central Asian countries etc.

Over the recent weeks the news agenda in the UK has been dominated by numerous reports and opinions in relation to the Ukraine.

In any event, this letter is not a history essay on Russia or Ukraine. We are concerned about a number of episodes when – in light of the recent events – Russian-speaking people and their children have been abused and mistreated in the UK.

Russian speaking residents, but especially children, feel unsafe, worry about going to school and visit other places.

Due to severity of certain cases police has been involved already, Russian speaking residents who experienced hate crime were strongly advised to report every single incident, not to ignore it.

All of the above affects people emotionally, mentally and physically. It may make a long-term impact on their well-being.

Schools are places where children must feel safe. Therefore, we ask you to support children who are bilingual and use Russian as their second language.

Children are impressionable and therefore the information that is provided by the media has to be delivered in a child friendly way. In the alternative we shall encourage persons concerned to take legal advice and consider legal action.

We ask for schools to raise staff and parental awareness regarding issues of bullying Russian speaking children via sending (sharing) this leaflet.

We ask for schools to invite a relevant representative to explain that Russian language is widely spoken in various countries throughout the world, therefore people who speak Russian must not be viewed as politicians.

Please invite the police to explain to children about hate crime and the consequences of it.

For secondary school we recommend this letter being displayed on schools' information board.

We also expect schools to stick to the approved national curriculum.

Please advise when the issues raised will be discussed and approved by (the Board of school Governors) according to anti-bullying and safeguarding policy of the school.

United Kingdom is one of the most democratic countries in the world. British values include multiculturalism, democracy, respect and zero tolerance to bullying, hate, aggressive behaviour or any form of discrimination.

Please help us to stop the discrimination based on language and culture! Do not allow xenophobia! We all want peace and friendship in our towns, schools and neighbourhoods!

UK ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

