



Paris, April 14th, 2022

To

H.E. Serhiy Viktorovych Dziuba

and

The hon. Committee of the Nikolai Gogol Triumph International Literary Prize Award

Dear All,

*I am very pleased and grateful to receive the honorary award **Nikolai Gogol Triumph International Literary Prize 2022**.*

As a cultural diplomat, I firmly believe in the power of culture in mediation, especially in this unprecedented era made of political and economic instability, belligerence, division, and incertitude.

I am deeply saddened by the recent events which are spreading suffering and panic in Ukraine and disorder in Europe. My thoughts go to the families of civilians and soldiers sacrificed to this useless and insane war.

War does not restore rights, it redefines powers. Above all, war wipes out civilization.

Once Nikolai Gogol stated: "The current generation now sees everything clearly, it marvels at the errors, it laughs at the folly of its ancestors, not seeing that this chronicle is all overscored by divine fire, that every letter of it cries out, that from everywhere the piercing finger is pointed at it, at this current generation; but the current generation laughs and presumptuously, proudly begins a series of new errors, at which their descendants will also laugh afterwards."

Culture plays a crucial part in every conflict. While only a small segment is visible on the surface, the powerful core of meaning lies in the depths of the collective psyche. From these depths comes our perception of ourselves and of other, our moral and world views, beliefs, judgements and relationships. It's time to move from the concept that culture is a barrier in conflict resolution to the concept of harnessing the power of culture to resolve them. Culture can provide the means and tools for finding common ground, to overcome hurdles, and to improve communication.

As the recipient of this prestigious cultural award in such a crucial historical moment for Ukraine and the whole world, I join the chorus of journalists, writers, artists, philanthropists who stand up for equality and freedom, and I raise my voice in defending the right to have rights.

May culture, art, and diplomacy lead us to the light.

Sincerely,

H.R.H. Prince Nereides Antonio Giamundo de Bourbon

President

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