



Canadian Hemophilia Society  
Help Stop the Bleeding  
Société canadienne de l'hémophilie  
Arrêtons l'hémorragie



WORLD FEDERATION OF HEMOPHILIA  
FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DE L'HÉMOFILIE  
FEDERACIÓN MUNDIAL DE HEMOFILIA

February 28, 2022

by e-mail

His Excellency Oleg V. Stepanov  
The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Canada  
285 Charlotte Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 8L5

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We are writing to express the deep concern of the members of the Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS) and the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) for the health and welfare of people with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders in Ukraine. Individuals living with these serious, chronic conditions need regular expert care from specialized medical centres. The war is undoubtedly preventing them from accessing these life-saving treatments. Those who have been displaced from their homes and who are seeking shelter in neighbouring countries are even more vulnerable. In addition to the lives taken by the violence of war, others will be lost by the interruption of essential health care.

We are also concerned about the longer-term impact of this war on Russians. The sanctions being imposed on your country will inevitably weaken your economy seriously. Importation of essential medicines will be affected. The care and treatment of your citizens with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders—which has improved so dramatically in the last decade—will suffer tremendously.

We respectfully ask that you communicate our sincere and heartfelt concerns to your government in the hope that this conflict can end immediately, and that people with hemophilia and other congenital bleeding disorders can regain access to the health care they need to live.

Sincerely,

Wendy Quinn, NP, CHS President

Cesar Garrido, WFH President

Cc: The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada  
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada  
The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Montréal

#### **About the Canadian Hemophilia Society**

Founded in 1953, the Canadian Hemophilia Society is a national voluntary health charity. Its mission is to advocate to improve the health and quality of life for all people in Canada living with an inherited bleeding disorder until cures are universally available. Its vision is a world free from the pain and suffering of inherited bleeding disorders. [www.hemophilia.ca](http://www.hemophilia.ca)

#### **About the World Federation of Hemophilia**

For over 50 years, the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH)—an international not-for-profit organization—has worked to improve the lives of people with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. Established in 1963, it is a global network of patient organizations in 147 countries and has official recognition from the World Health Organization. To find out more about the WFH, please visit [www.wfh.org](http://www.wfh.org).