

RAZOM WE STAND

The Hon. Alex Sobel
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Dear Mr. Sobel,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity that our team members Oleh Savytskyi and Olha Yevstihnieieva at Razom We Stand had to meet with you on June 20 at the parliamentary discussion titled "Ukrainian Green Resilience: How to Improve the Regional Energy and Climate Security" at the UK Parliament House of Lords. As I was informed, your insights and commitment to environmental justice issues were truly inspiring.

With utmost pleasure I would like to highlight several important topics that require urgent attention and present opportunities for our collaboration.

Firstly, I would like to address our recent efforts advocating for the recognition of ecocide as a crime against humanity in the international letter. In a joint open letter addressed to the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), that we initiated, civil society organizations from Ukraine and other democratic nations strongly condemned the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant and dam, which represents a clear violation of the Geneva Conventions and constitutes a brutal war crime against the environment, population, and climate. This act of ecocide has resulted in a massive ecological catastrophe with far-reaching consequences for Ukraine and beyond. We firmly believe that recognizing and prosecuting ecocide as an internationally recognized crime against humanity, akin to genocide and war crimes, is crucial. We call for immediate practical aid and expertise from international environmental bodies, organizations, and institutions to assist Ukraine in investigating and documenting the consequences of this war crime throughout the ongoing war.

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Furthermore, we are pleased to share our recent success in Scotland, where our campaign against Baker Hughes, a company involved in the construction of the Arctic LNG2 terminal in Russia. Despite international sanctions, Baker Hughes continued to supply oil and gas technology to Russia as late as September 2022. We urged the Scottish government to thoroughly examine this case and our intervention has led to the [suspension of grant funding](#) from the Scottish Enterprise fund to Baker Hughes.

We believe it is essential to ensure strict adherence to sanctions and their further tightening in critical areas for Russia's economy to defuse its war effort and further encroachment on international rules-based order.

In collaboration with Andrii Zhupanyin and the committee for energy and utilities of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, we advocate for a full ban on Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the imposition of [comprehensive sanctions against Russia's LNG sector](#). The proposed measures aim to reduce Europe's reliance on Russian fossil fuels and impede the expansion of Russia's LNG projects, including the Arctic LNG-2 project, which poses significant risks to the climate and Europe's energy security. The official letter, sent in April by the committee for energy and utilities of Verkhovna Rada to the European Commission and the United States' Treasury, is emphasizing the need for comprehensive secondary sanctions affecting companies providing services that facilitate Russia's LNG exports and its expansion.

Additionally, we have addressed the issue of insufficient enforcement of the oil embargo against Russia in an [open letter to David O'Sullivan](#). We highlighted the loopholes that undermine the efficacy of the sanctions and called upon the European Commission, as well as all governments of the sanctions coalition countries, to intensify their efforts in closing these loopholes and ensuring the comprehensive enforcement of the embargo.

Based on discussion initiated at the event in the UK Parliament House of Lords and our shared objectives, I kindly propose to gather an online meeting in July to further explore policy options within the United Kingdom concerning a legally defined (sanctioned) ban on insurance coverage for ships involved in the transportation of Russian oil and LNG. The suitable date and time can be determined according to your availability.

We believe that by implementing such measures and with your active support in cutting critical money flows that drive both catastrophic climate change and the Russian terrorist state, we can make a meaningful impact on the protection of the environment, the promotion of international law, and the pursuit of a sustainable future.

We hope our collaboration will enable us to establish exchange of knowledge and resources and advance respective solutions.



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Once again, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering commitment to environmental issues and international justice. I am confident that our collaboration can yield positive outcomes and contribute to a more sustainable and just world.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We eagerly await your response regarding the proposed online meeting in July.

With warmest regards,



Svitlana Romanko

Founder and Director
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