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Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Via email

December 19th, 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you about 'Resilience Hour', an initiative proposed by Ukrainian Members of Parliament asking the world to switch off or dim their lights for one hour on Wednesday 21 December.

Municipal authorities, mayors, and local administrations have been asked to designate one hour where all Christmas lights are switched off or dimmed in solidarity with Ukrainians who will be spending this Christmas experiencing blackouts, without electricity, heat, water, and other energy sources.

Resilience Hour – inspired by the annual Earth Hour - will take place at 8pm on December 21st, 2022, which is the darkest day of the year.

The proposal has already been backed by The Mayor of Kyiv, The Mayor of London, United for Ukraine (U4U) – an organisation of over 500 European parliamentarians - and many in Ukraine's private sector.

I am asking the UK Government to also back Resilience Hour and encourage others to do the same.

At the outbreak of the February invasion of Ukraine, governments, local authorities, and businesses lit their buildings up in the Ukrainian national colours of yellow and blue as a mark of solidarity with the people of Ukraine. These were powerful statements in the early days of the 2022 invasion. Now, Ukrainian parliamentarians are asking us to use light once again to show that we have not forgotten their plight – this time by switching our lights off.

Millions of Ukrainians will spend this winter in the cold and dark. Sharing an hour of darkness will remind everyone of Ukraine's plight, and the importance of continuing our common public support for the people of Ukraine.

I hope that the government will take part in this initiative and encourage others to do so.

Best,

cc. Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy