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I have asked Oleksandra Mirza and Igor Romanov of the Ukrainian psychoanalytic IP study group to contribute a Letter From Ukraine, which you will find in this issue, in which they depict and reflect upon the catastrophe which has befallen them. Renate Kohbeiner, from the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, has also written a Letter from Vienna. The original purpose was for her to speak to the international psychoanalytic community regarding the European Psychoanalytic Federation's forthcoming July conference. Vienna however, has found itself caught up in the frontline of rushing to the aid of Ukrainian since Austria is a neighbour of Ukraine, and that has meant Austrian psychoanalysts have been particularly involved in helping Ukrainian psychoanalysts and their families, many of whom have sought sanctuary in Vienna – so the war also figures in Renate's Letter.

The Education Section committee of the *International Journal* has for some time been planning to publish a number of articles on the subject of war, inspired by Freud's and Einstein's correspondence on the subject. It had not been anticipated that a major European war would erupt imminently, though vicious wars have been waged alongside political violence without cease in various parts of the world in recent years – Syria, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Chechnya, Sudan. Foreign invasions immediately spring to mind. The difference is that none of these conflicts are in psychoanalytic centres, so most of the psychoanalytic world has been protected by their geographical distance from suffering the direct impact of war. Ukraine, by contrast, has a very active psychoanalytic community, well in touch with many psychoanalysts worldwide, and particularly with the IPA.

Russia also has its own highly engaged society of psychoanalysts, who have been thrown into utter disarray by the terrors which their country is perpetrating in their name. It is politically impossible for the Russian analysts to be able to make any kind of formal communication apart from the fact that their work has also been devastated by the exigencies of the current situation. They are also in our thoughts.

I have decided, therefore, to bring forward the publication of articles on the theme of war in the Education Section, which we have arranged into two groups of papers, the first of which appears in this issue, the second is scheduled for Issue 4.

It is very disturbing to see our psychoanalytic theories about the make-up of human psychology, both in individuals and in groups, being demonstrated in real life on such a massive scale. We know that an experience of narcissistic insult can provoke outrage and a massive counter-attack. Freud thought that hate was older, more primal, than love. We know that hate can win over love. We know that there is immense sadistic gratification in the perpetration of cruelty. We know that weakness and vulnerability does not only provoke protection but also cruelty and rape, sexual and otherwise. We know about the narcissism of minor differences and the aggression to which it gives rise. We know about the manic excitement of exercising power. We know about the constant pull away from mature integration towards infantile splitting. Freud taught us that the benefits of civilisation are