

IPS 2022 Conference Update

4 March 2022

IPS Leadership — including our Officers and Board Members from around the world — held an emergency meeting at 21:00 UTC on 2 March to address the ongoing and worsening situation in Ukraine. In particular, we wanted to fully discuss the concerns regarding Russian involvement in IPS 2022. The meeting followed a focused email discussion with the IPS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Co-Chairs and Planetarium 1 Leadership.

We are unanimous in condemning all acts of violence and intimidation, and denounce the unjustified attack launched against Ukraine. The leadership of IPS has been focused on the situation, and we have been in touch with colleagues in the Ukrainian planetarium community. We will continue to work with them in an effort to steer and focus our support, as they are able.

We stand in solidarity with Ukraine, and all those who are suffering. Out of consideration and respect for our Ukrainian colleagues and the Ukrainian people, **we have decided to indefinitely postpone the IPS 2022 virtual conference.** We know that many are facing great difficulty and must devote their attention to the safety of themselves and others. We also know that when any part of our IPS community suffers, it affects us all.

Up until 2 March, IPS had planned to hold the virtual conference during the same period in late June, when the Saint Petersburg hybrid conference would have been held. Our communication following a Board meeting on 27 February stated that Planetarium 1 would be offered the ability to host an extended session. We stated this because we were mindful of the enormous amount of work that Planetarium 1 did in preparation for IPS 2022.

We are aware that some perceived this as an inappropriate favor to a Russian institution. While we firmly believe that neither Planetarium 1, nor any other Russian planetarians, are responsible for their government's actions, we also understand that their direct involvement with the conference would be perceived by some as deeply unfair to our Ukrainian colleagues. After much deliberation, it was decided that Planetarium 1 will not be managing any part of what would have been the IPS 2022 Conference. It was also decided that any planetarian, from any country, should be welcome to attend and present at all IPS events.

We are mindful that members have been preparing papers and presentations for IPS 2022. We value their time, and they will be given the chance to present their hard work and ideas at future IPS events. Also, in accordance with the IPS By-Laws and Standing rules, we are required to proceed with the election of Officers and Board Members this year, and hold an Annual General Meeting. We are preparing to hold these events virtually later this year. Updates regarding IPS events will be posted on [our communication platforms](#).

The IPS thrives on international collaboration and cooperation. We look forward to future IPS events where we will continue to welcome any individuals who want to contribute to our global community. We wish for all people to be at peace, and although our world is divided on many issues, we as planetarians can stay united under the night sky we all share.

-IPS Leadership