

APPEAL
BY THE RUSSIAN CULTURE'S
PROMINENT FIGURES
TO THE WORLD CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Dear friends and colleagues,

We appeal to you at a very difficult time in modern history that affects all countries of the world without exception.

No matter how the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, it will end eventually. However, it is now that our solidarity matters. In these challenging times, we should set aside everything that divides us and think about what we can do together to preserve the universal cultural space, in which we have lived up so far and will certainly live in the future. It is now crucial to prevent the destruction of civilizational foundations that represent a core value of humankind. Human life and the culture of humankind are largely synonymous. One should not forget that even during the economic crisis. This crisis should not be overcome at the expense of the cultural community.

Museums, theaters, concert halls and cinemas are closed. Architectural ensembles and nature parks that until recently attracted tens of millions of visitors are deserted. International festivals, conferences and exhibitions have been postponed indefinitely; film shoots and rehearsals have been suspended. Culture and art have gone on-line. This exodus to the virtual reality helps our fellow citizens to get through quarantine and self-isolation. However, both the public and masters of culture are looking forward to resuming their normal routine.

Culture's prominent figures of Austria, China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Spain, the United States and many other countries have found themselves in an extremely difficult situation. We empathize with their problems as deeply as they do with ours, since all museums, theaters, concert halls, production

companies and other cultural facilities of the world have long become one family. Each of us has contacts with colleagues all over the globe, as well as numerous interesting joint projects that will without any doubt be implemented for the benefit of all humankind.

Dear friends and colleagues, we invite all of you, the UNESCO leadership, national ministries and agencies in charge of preserving and promoting culture to consider holding in June 2020 an international virtual marathon in support of the foundations of the world community and core cultural values. We are willing to discuss the details in the coming weeks. We will seek assistance from Russian and foreign media and communication corporations in organizing this marathon. We look forward to your support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Action group:

Mikhail Shvydkoy, Olga Lyubimova, Yuri Bashmet, Teodor Currentzis, Lev Dodin, Yelena Gagarina, Vladimir Gusev, Andrey Konchalovsky, Marina Loshak, Denis Matsuev, Mikhail Piotrovsky, Sergey Shumakov, Vladimir Spivakov, Zelfira Tregulova, Vladimir Urin.