



Defend PCS's pro-Ukraine policy! Reject motion A30

By Bev Laidlaw, PCS Deputy President (pc)

We need to maintain and build on our policy in support of Ukraine and its unions – and stop attempts to overturn it.

The 2022 and 2023 ADCs voted by huge majorities to support Ukraine's struggle to defend itself against the Russian invasion and build solidarity with the Ukrainian trade union movement. Since then PCS has organised extensive practical solidarity, nationally and through our branches.

But this year's motion A30 seeks to change our position, dismissing Ukraine's just defensive struggle as a proxy war between the West and Russia, and drawing a Trumpesque equivalence between aggressor and victim. It commits us to opposing military aid for Ukraine.

This at a time when Putin's regime has shown it has no interest in peace even in the sense of a genuine ceasefire, let alone a just and therefore truly sustainable peace settlement. *(Continued inside)*

In this bulletin: Motions A30 and E194 • Appeal from PCS's sister union • Mark Serwotka on Ukraine • NEU conference votes for solidarity • Get involved in USC

Are we anti-imperialists, or not? Do we stand for class solidarity, or not? If yes we must reject A30.

Passing it would be a huge betrayal of our union comrades in Ukraine, simultaneously fighting to defend workers' rights under a neoliberal government, supporting their members under occupation and bombardment, and resisting a Russian invasion that would crush their movement completely.

Victory for Russia would mean rampant violence and oppression in Ukraine; it would mean even greater encouragement and impunity for imperialists around the world – from Palestine to Sudan to North America; and another boost for right-wing authoritarianism. We should not advocate a policy that makes that more likely.

More and more unions have taken strong stands in support of Ukraine. Last summer UNISON conference did so; just a few weeks ago, NEU conference. TUC Congress voted overwhelmingly to support Ukraine. PCS has been led the way on this; we should maintain and build on that, not undermine it.

Delegates should reject A30, and fight to hear E194, a Ukraine solidarity motion that has been incorrectly E-marked as covered by A30 – even though it takes the opposite position. There may also be an emergency motion in support of Ukraine.

Since 2022 our union has organised major practical solidarity with Ukrainian unions. Let's keep our pro-Ukraine policy and build our solidarity further.

• *Get in touch to about Ukraine solidarity work in PCS:*
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More and more unions stand with Ukraine

Last month, after three years of motions not being reached, the conference of half a million-strong school workers' union NEU finally got to vote on a strong motion of solidarity with Ukraine and its labour movement. It did so by 3:1. Last summer the conference of the UK's biggest union, UNISON, adopted a similar position. The 2023 TUC Congress voted overwhelming for a Ukraine solidarity position, with only two unions voting against.

More and more unions are standing decisively with Ukraine – following the position PCS adopted in 2022 and '23. We should continue to lead, not backtrack!

Mark Serwotka, former PCS General Secretary, calls for continued solidarity with Ukraine

“Three years into Russia’s brutal war, it’s more important than ever that we show our support for the people of Ukraine. We must say some things loudly and clearly: because it seems some people, many on the right, and some on the left unfortunately, find it so hard to say what is obvious. Russia is the aggressor in this war. It is Russia who invaded Ukraine. It is Russia who is bombarding Ukrainian cities, killing and maiming men, women and children. Ukraine is the victim, and the duty of the British labour movement is to say that we stand with them. Any peace settlement or long-term solution must be agreed by the people of Ukraine: not by others on their behalf. The people of Ukraine must have the right to self-determination, and to decide their own future. Our job, as British trade unionists, is to say: we stand with you and offer our solidarity.”

Reject motion A30! PCS must continue to stand with Ukraine

One of PCS's sister unions in Ukraine, the State Employees Union, appeals for continued solidarity:

“Solidarity from the State Employees Union of Ukraine. Ukraine needs your solidarity now more than ever. There are those who want to stop aid to Ukraine, even thinking it will bring peace. When military aid has been stopped, it has only brought more bombing of our cities with drones and missiles, killing workers including public-sector workers. There are no free trade unions in Russian-occupied territory. To get peace we need support – both humanitarian and military aid – to resist the invasion and end the occupation of our country. Please stand with Ukraine, our trade unions and our workers!” (Yurii Pizhuk, *General Secretary*)

Support Ukraine Solidarity Campaign

USC is the UK labour movement campaign in support of Ukraine and its labour movement. We help UK trade union mobilise against Russia's war on Ukraine, and organise direct links and practical solidarity with Ukraine's trade union and social movements. Set up in 2014 by John McDonnell MP and others, we now have affiliations from six national unions – PCS, UNISON, UCU, ASLEF, GMB and NUM – plus branches, regions, trades councils, etc.

More: **ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org / info@ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org**

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