



Stand with Ukraine's workers!

Unite Policy Conference 2025 – from Unite Ukraine Solidarity caucus + USC

Policy Conference 2023 passed an EC statement on Ukraine (see bit.ly/uniteukraine) that, despite weaknesses, clearly committed the union to condemning Russia's war, calling for Russian withdrawal from Ukraine, and "strengthen[ing] links with Ukrainian trade unions".

Unfortunately not much seems to have happened since. Unite has said very little about Ukraine, and done very little to strengthen links and practical solidarity with Ukraine's trade unions.

That's why *composite C14* (which covers motions 79, 80 and 81) reiterates the commitments made in 2023 and sets out measures to put practical solidarity into action. Including: inviting Ukraine's two main federations, FPU and KVPU, to the EC; organising delegations to Ukraine; organising speaker tours with Ukrainian trade unionists here; promoting Ukrainian unions' financial appeals; twinning branches; and raising issues facing Ukraine's workers in the Labour Party.

Ukraine's trade unions and socialists are continuing to call for solidarity – against the Ukrainian government's neoliberal, antiworker policies; and, even more urgently, against Russia's invasion, occupation and mounting blitzkrieg against their cities, encouraged by Trump's tilting of US policy towards Putin. (See statement from the two Ukrainian union federations at bit.ly/UAunions).

Let's pass C14 and start building active solidarity!

UK union solidarity grows – get involved

Last autumn activists in Unite set up Unite Ukraine Solidarity caucus, part of Ukraine Solidarity Campaign, to help push our union into action while organising solidarity from the bottom up. If you'd like to get involved, get in touch (see overleaf).

The context is growing solidarity with Ukraine from a growing number of UK trade unions, both in terms of policy and practical activity.

More and more union conferences have voted to take strong stands in support of Ukraine's struggle, while grassroots solidarity networks have been set up in a range of unions and industries.

Welfare not warfare

Some, eg in the Stop the War Coalition, use the slogan “Welfare not warfare” to mean opposing military aid to Ukraine. That spin is wrong: we should no more oppose aid to Ukraine than the left opposed aid to the Vietnamese resistance struggle from the Soviet Union and China. Meanwhile Ukraine aid is a small proportion of UK military spending. Beneath the rhetoric, increased military spending in the UK and other European countries is *not* about aiding Ukraine.

There is no shortage of wealth in society, but it is in the wrong hands. The answer to cuts and austerity is to make the rich pay for everything we need.

More: bit.ly/welfnotwar

How you can help

- Get your branch to invite a Ukraine Solidarity Campaign (USC) speaker and/or Ukrainian trade union or left speaker to your meeting or event
- Make direct links with Ukrainian unions, possibly by twinning your branch
- Push in Unite structures for links and solidarity with Ukrainian unions
- Donate to support. USC’s current appeal is to provide equipment for the 10th Rescue Squad, firefighters/rescue workers in Donetsk oblast, in eastern Ukraine – bit.ly/supportukrainerescue or use QR code. Ask your branch, etc, to donate. (We also hope to launch an appeal supporting construction workers in Ukraine soon.)
- Pass a motion, affiliate your branch to USC
- Get involvement in the Unite Ukraine Solidarity network.



^ Support rescue workers

What is Ukraine Solidarity Campaign?

USC is the UK trade union and labour movement campaign organising political and practical solidarity with Ukraine and its workers’ movement, socialists and left-wing social movements. Our national affiliates are UNISON, PCS, ASLEF, UCU, GMB and NUM, alongside many branches across the country including Unite branches.

We work with Ukraine Solidarity groups or networks in a range of unions, including Unite. If you’d like to get involved get in touch and we can put you in touch.

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ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org

We’re on Facebook / Instagram / Bluesky / Twitter/X