



# Stand with Ukraine and its workers

## TUC Congress 2025 • Ukraine Solidarity Campaign bulletin

**2025 has seen further escalation of Russia's brutal imperialist war against Ukraine.**

This summer, while Donald Trump rolled out the red carpet for indicted war criminal Vladimir Putin, Russia stepped up its assault on Ukrainian civilians. It's now common for Ukraine to face hundreds of missile and drones strikes a night. Attacks have doubled since Trump's return.

Alongside the tens of thousands of civilian casualties, creation of millions of refugees, destructions of cities and towns, deliberate targeting of workplaces, hospitals, schools and emergency services, the Russian army has now seen over a million casualties, including over two hundred thousand soldiers dead. Putin and his regime do not care.

**Long-term, sustainable peace requires Ukraine defeating Russian imperialism. UK unions have rightly stood in solidarity with Ukraine. Now is the time to step up solidarity.**

**RUSSIAN TROOPS OUT!**  
**SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE**  
TUC 2025 FRINGE MEETING, BRIGHTON  
**MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 5:45 PM**  
**GRESHAM SUITE, THE OLD SHIP HOTEL**

◀◀◀ Congress fringe  
5.45pm, Monday 8  
September, Old Ship

Donate to defend  
civilians against  
Russian attacks in  
Sumy, NE Ukraine  
(more on back) ▶▶▶



**BARBARA PLANT** President of GMB (Chair)

**MICK ANTONIW**  
Welsh Labour Member of the Senedd

**HANNA OSTAPENKO**  
Progresylni education workers organisation



**PAUL NOWAK**  
TUC General Secretary

**JOHN MCDONNELL MP**

**BEVERLEY LAIDLAW**

PCS Deputy President

**DYFRIG JONES**

UCU President elect

[Ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org](http://Ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org)

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# UK unions shift further towards Ukraine

Each of the four rounds of UK union conferences since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has seen strengthening of solidarity with Ukraine. This year:

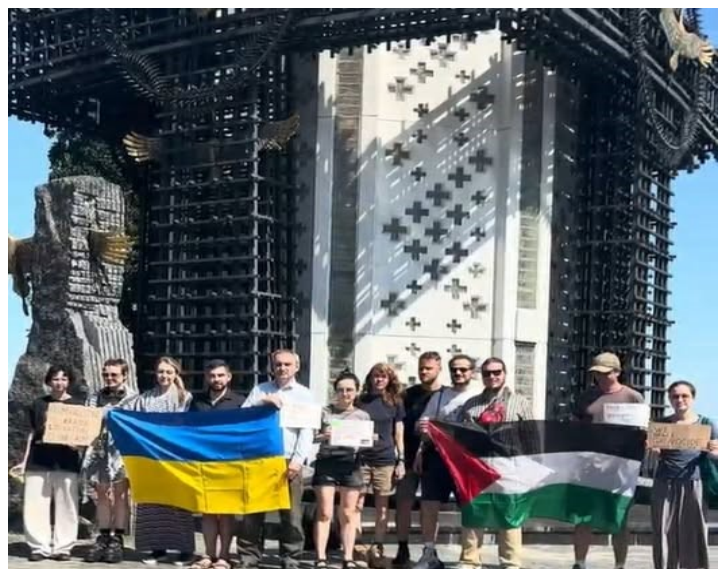
- After three years of having solidarity motions blocked, **NEU** conference voted by a huge margin for a strong Ukraine solidarity motion, after rejecting "Stop the War" type wrecking amendments by a margin of 2-1.
- **PCS** maintained its stance of solidarity with Ukraine.
- **UCU** Congress – which last year overturned its 2023 stance of opposing military aid for Ukraine, backed Ukraine's resistance and affiliated to USC – remitted an attempt to link the "Welfare not warfare" policy it passed to opposing support for Ukraine.
- A Ukraine solidarity motion was submitted to **FBU** conference, the first time the union has had a Ukraine motion on the agenda (though it was not in the end heard).
- **RMT** AGM passed "Stop the War" type policy opposing military aid to Ukraine – but only on the chair's casting vote, after delegates tied 27-27-10, showing the strength of opposition in the union.
- **Unite's** biennial Policy Conference overwhelmingly passed a motion with concrete steps to put into action the practical solidarity with Ukrainian unions it agreed in 2023.

Organising is going on in a range of unions to put pro-Ukraine policy into action, while developing stronger practical links and solidarity at a branch and activist level. There are now organised solidarity networks in a number of unions, with more being discussed. Get in touch to get involved.

## What you can do

- Make links with Ukrainian unions in your sector. Invite Ukrainian trade unionists to speak at your meetings.
- Donate to and promote the labour movement aid appeals being run. Organise your own appeal.
- Affiliate your union, region, committee, branch, etc, to USC.
- Organise a delegation to Ukraine.
- Back our Plan of demands (see p3).

We can help. Get in touch (see back).



*Ukrainian activists demonstrate at the Holodomor Museum in Kyiv – linking the genocidal slaughter and famine in Gaza with Ukraine's genocide-by-famine in the 1930s. One of the signs says "Ukrainians know a genocide when we see one".*

# “Stop Russian terror, protect peace and justice” – joint appeal from five Ukrainian union federations

On the back of the leaflet advertising our TUC Congress fringe meeting, we have republished the appeal to trade unions globally for stepped up solidarity with Ukraine issued on 28 August by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU).

We print here an extract of a statement issued in July by the KVPU together with Ukraine’s other main union federation, FPU, and three smaller federations – FPTU, AATU and AATU ‘Yednist’.

You can read the whole statement, which explains in great detail with numerous facts and figures Russian attacks on civilians including industrial and emergency workers, at [bit.ly/uaunionappeal](https://bit.ly/uaunionappeal)

*“At a time when thousands of our members are resisting and fighting against the Russian occupiers in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, working under fire and staying up all night because of attacks, we urge trade union movement and the international community to act.*

*“We call on the ITUC, its member organisations, global union federations, all trade unionists, all defenders of human dignity and solidarity, to:*

*“Clearly and unequivocally condemn Russia’s bombing of Ukrainian cities and killing of civilians. Share information about Ukraine on your informational resources*

*“Demand stronger economic, humanitarian, and military support for Ukraine from your governments*

*“Push for intensified sanctions against the aggressor state*

*“Call for prosecution of all those responsible for war crimes*

*“Demand the release of all Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian hostages, and the immediate return of all abducted Ukrainian children*

*“Today, we fight not only for our country but for the values that unite the global trade union movement – decent work, the right to life, the right to safety, and the right to solidarity.”*

## Demand an alternative to Russian occupation

Alongside UK unions, MPs, Ukrainian unions and activists and others, USC has launched a charter of demands on the UK government to break from Trump and help Ukraine win. You can read and sign, as an organisation or individual at [bit.ly/helpukrainewin](https://bit.ly/helpukrainewin)

## Defend workers’ rights in Ukraine

Ukraine’s unions need solidarity against both the Russian invasion and the neoliberal and anti-worker policies of the Ukrainian government. This article by Vitaliy Dudin explains attacks on union rights in Ukraine: [bit.ly/ukraineworkers](https://bit.ly/ukraineworkers)

## “Wages Not Weapons” motion

Unions involved in Ukraine Solidarity Campaign will take different positions on the “Wages Not Weapons” motion (motion 37) put to Congress by UCU.

The Stop the War Coalition might like this to be a vote on Ukraine; but it is not. UCU has policy supporting the Ukrainian resistance to Russia and is affiliated to USC. At this year’s UCU Congress, delegates passed policy for “Welfare not warfare” but voted to remit text linking this to Ukraine.

What is crucial is that the labour movement supports continued and stepped up aid to help Ukraine defeat the Russian invasion, which is also the way to avoid wider wars and wider militarisation in future. Military aid for Ukraine is only a small percentage of UK military spending; but higher military spending does not automatically mean more, let alone adequate, support for Ukraine.

- TUC Congress policy in support of Ukraine: [bit.ly/tucukraine](https://bit.ly/tucukraine)

### Labour movement aid

Since the full-scale invasion, we have helped UK trade unions raise and deliver hundreds of thousands of pounds in practical aid for both Ukrainian front-line defenders and essential workers behind the lines (firefighters and rescue workers, health workers, education workers, miners and others).

In 2024-5 we raised tens of thousands in aid to support rescue workers in Donetsk oblast, in eastern Ukraine near the frontline (see [bit.ly/supportukrainerescue](https://bit.ly/supportukrainerescue)). We are now fundraising to provide a pick-up truck for conversion and use by a rapid response battalion intercepting Russian missiles and drones to protect civilians in Sumy region, in north east Ukraine.

You can donate to the Sumy appeal using the QR on the front or at [bit.ly/sumyappeal](https://bit.ly/sumyappeal)

Scottish UNISON branches are also organising a delegation to Kharkiv in late September, and taking aid. Donate to their appeal at [bit.ly/kharkivaid](https://bit.ly/kharkivaid)

### Support Ukraine Solidarity Campaign

USC is the UK trade union and labour movement campaign organising political and practical solidarity with Ukraine and its workers’ movement (founded 2014). Our national union affiliates are UNISON, ASLEF, UCU, PCS, NUM and GMB, alongside many union branches across the country. There is also an autonomous USC (Scotland).

Please invite a speaker to your union branch or other organisation, and consider affiliating (you can also join as an individual). We can arrange speakers in Ukraine on Zoom, Teams, etc.

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or ideas!

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[ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org](https://ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org)

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