



While Ukraine fights for its rights, Ukrainians fight for LGBT+ rights

Ukraine Solidarity Campaign sends greetings to TUC LGBT+ Conference 2026



Thousands of Ukrainians, including active-duty soldiers, joined Kyiv Pride on 21 June. Attitudes in Ukraine have shifted during the war, but the LGBT+ community needs solidarity, to change laws and to resist reactionary pushback, including from the far right.

As Ukraine fights to defend its people against Russia's brutal imperialist invasion and occupation, Ukrainians have not stopped fighting for their democratic rights – including rights to love and live freely as they choose.

With many thousands of LGBT+ people serving in the military (many of them wearing a unicorn patch on their uniform as a badge of pride), and widespread awareness of how central homophobia and transphobia have become to Putin's regime and its international propaganda, public opinion in Ukraine has shifted strongly towards supporting equal rights.

That does not mean the battle is won. A new draft Civil Code ruling out gay marriage has sparked protests of thousands by LGBT+ people, women, young people and others, delaying its passing. The far right has also mobilised against LGBT+ rights, attempting (but failing) to prevent the large and vibrant Kyiv Pride that took place on the 21st and Pride events in other cities. *(more over)*

UK trade union solidarity with Ukraine grows

In May the conference of the Communication Workers' Union adopted a clear stance on Ukraine for the first time – voting for a strong motion of solidarity with Ukraine and its workers, and becoming the eighth national union to affiliate to Ukraine Solidarity Campaign (see below). In June UNISON and GMB also passed policy reaffirming their support for Ukraine.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, more and more unions have voted to stand with Ukraine. This has been accompanied by growing national and grassroots solidarity, including links with Ukrainian unions, speakers, protests, fundraising for aid, and delegations to Ukraine.

Ukraine is beginning to turn the tide on Russia, but still suffering enormously. Solidarity is more urgent than ever. Please get involved and help!



Nina Potarska and Andrii Movchan are Ukrainians who joined the Global Sumud Flotilla to Gaza. Both were seized and detained by Israel. More: bit.ly/uaga

continued from front page

For most of the international far right, homophobia and transphobia are central – as is opposition to Ukraine. The far-right alliance led by Putin and Trump has promoted oppression all over the world.

Ukrainian comrades fighting for their lives and their rights are on a frontline of this struggle, and need support.

Join Ukraine Solidarity Campaign

Founded 2014, Ukraine Solidarity Campaign is the UK trade union and left campaign organising political and practical solidarity with Ukraine's workers' and social movements. Our national union affiliates are (in order of affiliation) ASLEF, NUM, PCS, UCU, UNISON, GMB, Unite, CWU and MU – alongside many branches, etc.

Please invite a speaker to your branch, pass a motion and affiliate (you can join individually too). We can also arrange speakers from unions, LGBT+ organisations, etc, in Ukraine online. Feel free to get in touch for a speaker, more info, or anything else!

info@ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org

ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org/join

We're on Facebook / Instagram / Bluesky / X

Help Ukrainian children learn in safety – support our schools appeal

Since 2022 USC has worked with UK unions to raise and deliver hundreds of thousands of pounds in aid for Ukrainian workers and communities.

Our new appeal is supporting underground schools in Pavlohrad and Kryvyi Rih (east Ukraine), to help children learn in safety. More + donate:

bit.ly/schoolsappeal