



UKRAINE'S WORKERS STILL NEED OUR SUPPORT!

UNISON Members for Ukraine + Ukraine Solidarity Campaign • NDC 2026

By Kieran James Paterson, North East London & City Health branch

More than four years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the war it has launched remains a devastating conflict with profound consequences for working people. Putin's regime continues its genocidal war with intensified missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities, deliberately targeting residential areas, workplaces, and civilian infrastructure. Meanwhile it continues to support and promote the far right globally, which is overwhelmingly united in support of Putin and Russian imperialism.

Working-class solidarity means standing with Ukraine's workers, unions and communities in their fight to determine their own future free from invasion and occupation, and *their* struggles to defend workers' and social rights against Ukraine's neoliberal government. The UK trade union movement has overwhelmingly stood in solidarity with Ukraine. UNISON must continue to play a central role, and UNISON branches and members should step up practical solidarity (see p2). Please also support USC's new appeal for schools in eastern Ukraine: see bit.ly/schoolsappeal

Ukrainian socialist, just released from four years in Russian captivity, speaks – online, 24 June

With Vladyslav "Iskra" Zhuravlev. Organised by UNISON Members for Ukraine

6pm, Wednesday 24 June. Register at bit.ly/UAprisoners or use QR code.



“Under my leadership solidarity with Ukraine's workers will grow”

General Secretary Andrea Egan spoke at the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign rally at Parliament on 4 March, to mark the fourth anniversary of the full-scale invasion, alongside Ukrainian activists, John McDonnell MP, Johanna Baxter MP and others. More inside, p3. Full speech on the USC website at bit.ly/AEukraine

UNISON + Ukraine: building on a year of solidarity

By Stephen Smellie, South Lanarkshire Local Government branch

NDC 2024 established clear policy in solidarity with Ukraine's unions and its fight against invasion (bit.ly/UUAmotion). This year we have a chance to discuss solidarity work by Scottish branches, in **motion 74**, if prioritised. 74 also refers to **National Disabled Members Committee's initiative in organising a webinar** with speakers from the **Scottish delegation to Kharkiv**, with Ukrainian trade unionists also speaking about issues confronting disabled workers. This kind of solidarity builds on our policy.

The NEC's wide-ranging international **motion 71** restates opposition to the invasion and solidarity with Ukraine and its workers and unions, as well as highlighting US imperialist threats and actions against Venezuela, Cuba, Greenland and Iran.

A **further motion from Scottish branches** on the labour movement and anti-imperialism takes a firm line opposing US and Russian imperialism, but was ruled out of order. This is being appealed.

The **delegation to Kharkiv last October** was a brilliant act of solidarity. We met trade unionists from the public sector, social work, education and other areas, visited underground schools and universities, the main hospital, and scenes of destruction from the early days of the invasion and more recent bombing.

We **established links** with unions in the city, LGBT+ group Spectrum, academics and the Aquarena Sports Centre, a hub for union relief work and rehabilitation for those injured.

We **raised over £20,000** to support union members, children, the LGBT+ community and social work service-users in the city. The funds have contributed to training for Kharkiv union reps to support members under pressure from the war, and improve terms and conditions for workers now and when peace is achieved.

Further solidarity was recently delivered to Aquarena in the shape of **gym equipment** transported by North Lanarkshire branch. This will be used to help rehabilitate children injured and traumatised by the war.



Carolyn Casey, William Shearer and Tracy Anne Miller with health colleagues in Kharkiv. Delegation report at bit.ly/ScotUAreport

Stuart Graham, NEC International Committee, adds:

International Committee will hopefully soon be considering a project proposal to support union organising in Ukraine: training organisers and developing workplace teams with the aim of expanding recruitment in health and social care. We want to help respond to problems caused by the war and restrictions under martial law by strengthening organising structures, improving bargaining power and building sustainable growth across key regions.

In February 2026, for the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, ten UK unions (including UNISON) and the TUC issued a solidarity statement. Read it here: bit.ly/unionsua

Andrea Egan on Ukraine solidarity (4 March):

“Our colleagues in public services are keeping Ukraine going – health workers caring for the wounded; workers in energy and water who respond when critical infrastructure is deliberately attacked; my fellow social workers supporting those whose lives have been devastated by war.

“Under my leadership solidarity with Ukrainian unions and workers will grow. We will continue to support them as they defend their country, their democracy and rights, and their public services against an illegal invasion.”

Full speech: bit.ly/AEukraine

CWU votes to stands with Ukraine

By Maria Exall, CWU National Executive

At our conference in May, the Communication Workers Union overwhelmingly agreed to support Ukraine, its workers, and union federations KVPU and FPU – and to affiliate to Ukraine Solidarity Campaign (making us the eighth national union to do so). This is the first time CWU conference has taken a clear position on Ukraine.

USC also held a very well attended fringe meeting at the conference with John McDonnell MP and South Wales-based Ukrainian refugee activist Yuliia Bond.

Delegates recognised that Russia is deploying a brutal strategy of suffering, intimidation and submission against the civilian population, methodically targeting and destroying essential services such as electricity, heating and water infrastructure, and targeting workplaces and workers. Ukrainian workers, including communication workers, endure danger, precarious conditions and human losses as Russia attempts to terrorise and subordinate the Ukrainian people.

Conference called for the withdrawal of Russian forces from all Ukrainian territory occupied since 2014 as the necessary condition for a just and sustainable peace. It is only through international trade union solidarity that we can achieve proper justice and peace in Ukraine!



Nina Potarska and Andrii Movchan are Ukrainian activists who joined the recent Global Sumud Flotilla to support Gaza. Both were seized and detained by the Israeli military. You can read more about their motivations and perspectives for Ukrainian-Palestinian solidarity in this interview with Ukrainian journal Spilne: bit.ly/uaga

A message to NDC delegates from Ukraine's State Employees' Union

From Yurii Pizhuk, Chair of the State Employees' Union of Ukraine

Dear delegates to UNISON National Delegate Conference,

On behalf of the State Employees' Union of Ukraine, I would like to extend our sincere greetings and best wishes for a successful conference.

We are deeply grateful to UNISON and its members for your continued solidarity and support for Ukrainian workers and trade unions. As our country continues to endure Russian attacks and the devastating consequences of war, the support of trade unionists around the world remains incredibly important to us.

Your solidarity with our struggle and your commitment to international trade union cooperation make a real difference. In these difficult times, your support gives Ukrainian trade unionists not only practical assistance but also confidence that we are not facing these challenges alone. It reminds us that the values of solidarity, democracy and social justice unite workers across borders and remain stronger than fear and destruction.

I was delighted to welcome UNISON Scotland delegates to Kyiv and Kharkiv last year and to share firsthand the challenges we face and Ukrainian trade unionists' resilience. We look forward to welcoming more UNISON members here and strengthening our friendship. Thank you for standing with Ukraine. We wish you a productive and inspiring conference.

Yurii Pizhuk, State Employees' Union of Ukraine

Support 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 in Ukraine on Zoom, Teams, etc. Feel free to get in touch for a speaker, more info, or with questions or ideas!

info@ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org
ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org/join

We're on Facebook / Instagram / Bluesky / X

Join UNISON Members for Ukraine

UNISON Members for Ukraine was established in 2024 to win policy at NDC, and since then has grown as a network pushing to ensure the policy is carried out and organising practical links and solidarity.

To get involved / for more information, email

unisonukrainesolidarity@gmail.com or sign up at bit.ly/UMUform