



HOW TO STOP THE WAR? SOME CONCRETE PROPOSALS!

"When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die." Jean-Paul Sartre

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has shocked us all. We feel moved to act but powerless at the same time. How, then, can we make a contribution to stop this massacre, which benefits the arms industry and the various ruling classes, but certainly not people like us?

All over Europe, the streets have been filling up with protesters crying 'no to war'. However, the Left needs to be specific and concrete in its demands, and not fall back on a generic demand for peace, which can too easily be exploited by those who then go on to vote for increased military spending, for sending soldiers and weapons to war zones.

We must not remain passive spectators or side-line commentators but must instead become protagonists of a social transformation. For now we may be few, but our numbers will grow quickly as long as we stay committed to our convictions.

Here we lay out our concrete proposals for putting an end to war:

- 1. Stop Italy and other European countries from sending soldiers and weapons to the war in Ukraine:** a further military intervention would increase the spiral of violence and lead to new deaths. It would also burden the pockets of common citizens and have serious consequences for our democracy.
- 2. Oppose sanctions:** sanctions against Russia do not hurt the oligarchs (who have capital in tax havens or tied up with Western economies) but rather hit the Russian population hard, working people who are already paying the costs of a severe crisis.
- 3. Stop NATO intervention:** NATO intervention would lead to a very serious escalation of the conflict. We want to abolish NATO, which has no defensive purpose whatsoever, but has been provoking horrific wars for decades (Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq).
- 4. Put diplomacy and international cooperation at the centre:** we must put pressure on Europe to pursue diplomacy and to put an immediate stop to hostilities, in order to protect those in danger. We must work for a solution that respects the self-determination of the Donbass populations. We must also seek to involve the UN, envisaging an aid plan for the Ukrainian people, with international observers and free elections open to all parties (including the communists outlawed by the Ukrainian government in 2015). We call for the dismantling of extreme right-wing Nazi militias.
- 5. Build international solidarity:** the Russian intervention must be condemned – it is important that we are able to make our condemnation known to the Ukrainian people, its democratic organisations, the Russian people taking to the streets, and the left-wing organisations opposing Putin. We must hold visible anti-war demonstrations all over the world, including in the USA, and forge an alliance between the European forces that oppose NATO membership.

- 6. Welcome refugees:** we must fight for the refugees created by this war to be welcomed, for European countries to facilitate residence permit procedures so that the families of Ukrainian workers can be reunited here.
- 7. No more public money for energy companies and support for workers against the increase of tariffs:** our governments must prepare a package of measures to counter rising tariffs. Private energy companies are making monstrous and growing profits. These profits should be redistributed and used for the benefit of the working people. We must stop giving public money to energy companies; the state should take control of energy policy and set tariffs so that the private sector cannot continue to enrich itself.

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