

Part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC)



# FOR WORKERS' UNITY AGAINST WAR IN UKRAINE

- Stop the war in Ukraine!
- Withdraw Russian troops and end the bombing!
- No to ethnic division and cleansing! For workers' unity, for self-determination and full democratic rights for all minorities
- Fight for visa-free travel for those fleeing the war and the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.
- Homes and services for all take the wealth off the oligarchs and the 1%. Workers mustn't pay the price for economic consequences of war
- No trust in Nato or the capitalist politicians. For an independent workers' movement
- Fight for a socialist alternative to war

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#### FOR WORKERS' UNITY AGAINST WAR IN UKRAINE

War is the inevitable consequence of an international capitalist system based on profit, exploitation and oppression. The main beneficiaries of war in Ukraine will be the billionaires and the oligarchs, the bosses of the arms industries and the capitalist profiteers.

It will be workers and ordinary people who will suffer: killed and injured by bombs and missile attacks; forced to uproot themselves and flee their homes. This, on top of the economic problems they were already facing under the Zelensky government, backed by rich Ukrainian oligarchs.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine is in part to divert attention from the growing anger by workers in Russia at the economic crisis his regime has presided over. He's terrified that an uprising of workers, like the one in next-door Kazakhstan, could overthrow his rotten, authoritarian, gangster-capitalist rule.

And here in Britain, rising oil and gas prices and economic instability resulting from the war will be another turning of the screw in the cost of living crisis. We have already seen energy, food and other prices go through the roof, while the rich get richer under Boris Johnson's watch.

Johnson and the Tories have been happy to take the dirty money of rich Russian oligarchs to fund their party. Both Tory and Labour governments have welcomed them into Britain with open arms. The same governments that have waged brutal wars in Iraq and elsewhere, alongside US imperialism, to defend the profits and prestige of their capitalist backers.

Working people can have no trust in pro-big business capitalist governments to defend our interests whether in Ukraine, Britain, the US, or in Russia. We need to build workers' unity and international solidarity in a struggle to kick out the warmongers and the profiteers.

That means also building mass workers' parties that can offer a real political alternative to the defenders of this unequal and brutal capitalist profit system: a socialist alternative that doesn't just seize the assets of the Russian oligarchs, but takes economic ownership and control out of the hands of the major monopolies and the entire super-rich capitalist elite, so that society can be democratically run by the working class in the interests of the majority, based on planning and cooperation, not the cut-throat competition in pursuit of profits and prestige that causes poverty, exploitation and war.

### UKRAINE REFUGEES

Johnson claims to be 'generous' but only 50 visas were granted to the 5,000 Ukrainians who applied in the first 48 hours of the government scheme. But the £100 million raised in charity here and the solidarity of working class people in Poland and countries neighbouring Ukraine show real generosity.

Those fleeing war and crisis shouldn't have to rely on charity, nor should they need certain qualities to be allowed a visa.

A safe visa-free passage should immediately be created for all refugees fleeing the conflict, and under the democratic control of workers', trade union and community organisations.

If the Tories insist they need more cash before they can help refugees, they could seize the Russian millionaires' assets held here. They're reluctant in case more of us start looking at how much wealth all bosses and oligarchs are hoarding! Why not expropriate the empty mansions of all the super-rich in order to house all of the homeless? The trade unions and anti-war movement must fight for refugee rights, and homes and services for all.

## See socialistworld.net for further analysis

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