

THREE YEARS OF RUSSIAN WAR IN UKRAINE

SWITZERLAND CAN DO MORE

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine poses an unprecedented threat to European and global security. For three years, Ukraine valiantly and desperately defends its sovereignty. What began as an invasion has now devolved into a grinding war of attrition with no end in sight.

Through increasing military cooperation with other authoritarian regimes – North Korea, Iran and China – Russia can still afford to continue its aggression and to inflict immense suffering onto Ukrainian population.

Thousands of Ukrainian children have been forcibly deported to Russia in an effort to "russify" them, erasing their cultural identity. Russian forces have indiscriminately targeted cities with aerial attacks, leaving families and the elderly without electricity, heat and basic necessities. In the occupied territories, heinous acts of murder, torture, and abuse are rampant. On the battlefield, Russian troops have deployed chemical weapons and committed atrocities against prisoners of war. The scale of destruction encompasses not only human lives, but the very fabric of the Ukrainian society, but also, to a serious extent, the environment.

Switzerland has demonstrated remarkable solidarity with Ukraine by providing humanitarian aid and generous support for refugees. Yet, this wave of support seems to be losing momentum. At the end of 2024, Parliament decided to limit the application of the protection status S to refugees from specific territories, a move that risks leaving many vulnerable Ukrainians without an option to apply for protection. Russian bombs hit the entire country.

The Ukrainian Society of Switzerland deeply values the solidarity demonstrated by the Swiss people, and appeals for continued, further strengthened and, above all, sustainable support. We urge decisive actions to provide aid, to stand firmly against aggression, and to work towards a just and lasting peace:

- **Strengthening of the Sanctions Regime**

Consistent prevention of sanctions-breaching by the Swiss commodities traders *and their foreign branches*. Implement the 14th EU sanctions package without gaps.

- **Step up the Economic Support for Ukraine**

Strengthen mine clearance operations, provide more economic assistance to rebuild destroyed infrastructure and to enable implementation of important reforms.

- **Utilize Frozen Russian Assets**

Hand over the CHF 7.4 billion of Russian central bank assets held in Switzerland to Ukraine, for example as collateral for loans to support Ukraine.

- **Ensure Accountability for War Crimes**

Actively assist in creating an international tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crime of aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. There must be no exceptions to the execution of the international arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin.



- **Help to Rescue Detained Ukrainian Civilians, to Return Ukrainian Children**

Join international initiatives to secure release of thousands of Ukrainian civilians illegally detained by Russia and held in inhumane conditions. Join efforts to return Ukrainian children to their homeland.

- **Continue Supporting Ukrainian Refugees**

The ongoing Russian aggression, the persistent air strikes across the entire territory of Ukraine and the deliberate destruction of critical infrastructure require continuation of the existing policy regarding Status S in an unchanged form.

- **Combat Russian Hybrid Warfare and Propaganda**

Build resilience against Russian disinformation and hybrid warfare tactics to safeguard our free way of life and democracy.

