

# Kyiv Declaration: Ukrainian civil society leaders' six asks for the world

Monday 21 March 2022, by [Kyiv Declaration](#) (Date first published: 3 March 2022).

**Putin has unleashed a bloody war on the people of Ukraine. Our hospitals, schools and homes have been bombed, our streets filled with tanks, our sons and daughters shot. Why? Because we stood up to authoritarianism and chose a better life. We chose democracy. We chose freedom.**

As our nation takes up arms to defend our homes and our families, we, as leaders of over 100 Ukrainian civil society organisations, have come together with six urgent appeals to the international community.

#StandWithUkraine by sharing on social media. As civil society leaders, our lives have been dedicated to fighting for what is right. But today, we must fight for our lives.

This is not just a war against Ukraine, it is a war against the fundamental principles of democracy. A great iron chain is being drawn across Europe, that Putin hopes will sink any society that he believes strays too far into the light.

We are fighting with everything we can, but we cannot win with courage and conviction alone. We need help. And we need it now. We ask the international community to stand with Ukraine by taking the following actions.

## **An appeal from 100 Ukrainian civil society leaders**

### **The Kyiv Declaration Demands**

**Establish Safe Zones In Ukraine** — To provide sanctuary for civilians from both air and ground attacks and to help prevent a tide of refugees fleeing to Europe.

**Provide Immediate Defensive Military Aid - Including Lethal And Non-Lethal Assistance** — We urgently need air defence systems and anti-tank weaponry to defend our homes and cities from Russia's use of advanced military technology, including cruise missiles.

**Implement Crippling Sanctions To Undermine Putin's War Machine** — Immediately impose the strongest possible sanctions on Russia's central bank - with no exclusions. A total ban on all Russian banks using SWIFT with immediate effect. Europe and the US must sanction Russia's oil and gas sectors to cut off the revenues Putin uses to fund his war machine.

**Provide Immediate Humanitarian Aid** — We need financial aid to fund local humanitarian organisations. We also require fuel, logistics support and emergency medical equipment, such as field hospitals, mobile clinics and trauma supplies.

**Freeze The Assets And Revoke The Visas Of Putin's Cronies** — Deny Putin and his cronies

access to their cash and properties stashed in the west, revoke their visas and those of their families, and impose an immediate travel ban. Let them know that it will not be business as usual, and that Putin cannot protect their interests.

**Provide Equipment To Track War Crimes Immediately** — Supply technology and support to groups recording Putin's war crimes. Fund the human rights groups and lawyers who will ensure that Putin and his cronies are one day brought to justice.

## **Ukrainian Civil Society Leaders and International NGOs Call for Humanitarian Corridors to be Established Today to Save Thousands of Lives**

### **Ukrainian Civil Society Leaders and International NGOs Call for Humanitarian Corridors to be Established Today to Save Thousands of Lives**

Over 100 civil society leaders in Ukraine have called on the world to help negotiate humanitarian corridors in and out of major cities to allow civilians to be evacuated and life-saving aid to be brought in. They say that humanitarian corridors must be established immediately to avert a major humanitarian catastrophe that would kill thousands of Ukrainian civilians.

The war in Ukraine is entering a new and deadlier phase as Russian forces have started deliberately targeting civilians with deadly banned cluster weapons and are now laying siege to cities, trapping millions of people, and cutting them off from water, essential supplies and electricity.

A statement by Chatham House Ukraine calls for humanitarian corridors to be established now to open routes out of Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kherson, Sumy, Chernihiv and the capital city of Kyiv. The statement, written by the Director of Chatham House Ukraine says:

*In Volnovakha, in the East, Russian forces opened fire on a previously agreed civilian evacuation corridor. In Chernihiv, roads out of the city have been mined, so no one can enter or leave. In Shastya, Severodonetsk, some 40,000 people have no access to food, water and electricity or medical care.*

*The last UN convoy left Kyiv on Wednesday, leaving several million civilians trapped with only one, frequently targeted route out of the city.*

*In Kharkiv, intense Russian air, missile, and artillery bombardment heavily damaged downtown and residential areas, killing a large number of innocent people.*

*With the invading force on the doorstep of Kherson and Mariupol in the south, a humanitarian disaster is unfolding with basic utilities being cut off by air strikes and the local population losing access to food and shelter.*

An international broker – a non-NATO state – is urgently required to negotiate where humanitarian corridors can be established and to agree for what purposes they can be used.

The 100 Ukrainian CSO leaders came together following Russia's invasion to issue the Kyiv Declaration, which sets out six humanitarian, military and economic demands to the international community, including:

- establishing safe zones to provide sanctuary for civilians
- providing air defence systems and anti-tank weaponry

- sanctions on Russia's Central Bank
- sanctions on Russia's oil and gas sectors

**Oleksandr Pavlichenko, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group for Human Rights, said:**

"We need humanitarian corridors established today to prevent thousands of innocent people being killed.

"War crimes are being documented. For example, in Chernihiv access to the city has been mined, so no one can enter or leave the city. A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in Shastya, Severodonetsk, Volnovakha, where 40,000 people need basic supplies. Ukraine has several nuclear power plants, which urgently need international protection. In Zaporizhzhya, Energodar is encircled by Russian Forces and there is a fear that their goal is to cease all strategic infrastructure, chemical plants, dams, artificial water reservoirs. If they succeed, it will lead to a widespread ecological catastrophe and Ukrainians will be massively cut off from the energy and water supplies. This is a genocidal attempt to cease all critical infrastructure."

**Teyana Pechonchyk, ZMINA Centre for Human Rights, said:**

"A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in Mariupol, Kherson and many other places across Ukraine. People cannot leave their buildings, they have no access to food or drugs or basic hygienic goods."

**Lyubov Maksymovych, Women's Perspectives, said:**

"Civilians are held hostages with little access to basic needs, such as food, medicine, water and electricity. There is no humanitarian assistance available in the east of the country to help those in urgent need, like in the northern region of Kyiv. We need blood for the injured, water, technical medical equipment for the medics. For example, in Vyshgorod, Ukrainians urgently need medical supplies and insulin, pregnant women are short of medical assistance during labour. Food remains an urgent need in many places, as well as medical assistance is needed for the intubations."

**Spokespeople are available on request - all remain in Ukraine, taking shelter but also taking action.**

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**Kyiv Declaration**

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**P.S.**

Kyiv Declaration

<https://kyivdeclaration.org/>

**Kyiv Declaration Signatories**

**This six-point appeal has been signed by 40 Ukrainian civil society organisations in Kyiv**

**and other cities under siege including:**

1. Ukraine Crisis Media Centre, Nataliya Popovych
2. Civic Network Opora, Olga Aivazovska
3. Ukrainian Helsinki Group for Human Rights, Oleksandr Pavlichenko
4. Plast, Natalia Kolesnyk
5. Public Interest Journalism Lab, Natalia Gumeniuk
6. Internews Ukraine, Volodymyr Yermolenko
7. ZMINA Centre for Human Rights, Tetyana Pechonchyk
8. Ukrainian Institute London, Olesya Khromeychuk
9. Vostok SOS, Kostiantyn Reutskyi
10. ISAR Yednannia, Volodymyr Sheyhus
11. StopFake, Yevhen Fedchenko
12. Ukrainian Centre for Independent Policy Research, Yuliya Tyshchenko
13. Ukrainian Catholic University, Fr. Dr. Bohdan Prach
14. Centre for Civil Liberties, Oleksandra Matviichuk
15. Global Ukraine, Violeta Moskalu
16. DixyGroup, Olena Pavlenko
17. Vox Ukraine, Svitlana Slipchenko
18. Izolyatsia Platform for Cultural Initiatives, Mykhailo Glubokyi
19. Hromadske TV, Yuliia Fediv
20. Detector Media, Galyna Petrenko
21. European Experts Association, Maria Avdeeva
22. Come BackAlive, Taras Chmut
23. Women's Perspectives, Lyubov Maksymovych
24. PEN Ukraine, Tetyana Teren
25. Mission of the President of Ukraine in Crimea, Maria Tomak
26. IREX Ukraine, Mehri Druckman
27. IREX Ukraine, Yuliya Solovey
28. Professional Government Association of Ukraine, Harvard Club of Ukraine, Constantine Lisnichiy
29. Anastasiia Gernega, Touchpoint NGO
30. Halyna Skipalska, Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health
31. Charity Foundation 'Stabilization Support Services', War Childhood Museum Ukraine, Yevhenii Monastyrskyi
32. Realnaya Gazeta, Andriy Dikhtyarenko
33. Ukrainian Prism, Hennadiy Maksak
34. Texty.org.ua, Roman Kulchytskyi
35. Ukrainian Foundation for Security Studies, Yulia Kazdobina
36. NGO "CRIMEASOS", Tamila Tasheva
37. ABO Agency, Lera Lauda
38. Lviv Media Forum, Olga Myrovych
39. Centre of Public Investigations, Valerii Bolgan
40. OstroV, Sergiy Garmash
41. Odesa Regional Organization of the All-Ukrainian NGO "Committee of Voters of Ukraine", Anatoliy Boyko
42. Institute for Central European Strategy, Dmytro Tuzhanskyi
43. Democratic Foundations Initiatives, Maria Zolkina
44. Centre of Public Initiatives "Ideas for Change", Olena Zakharova
45. Ukrainian People's House in Chernivtsi, Taras Khalavka
46. Centre for Army, Conversion, Mykhailo Samus

47. CGS Strategy XXI, Mykhailo Gonchar
48. No Borders Project, Maksym Butkevych
49. Vox Ukraine, Ilona Solohub
50. Ukrainian Media and Communications Institute, Diana Dutsyk
51. Donetsk Institute of Information, Lyubov Rakovitsa
52. Agency for Legislative Initiatives, Svitlana Matviienko
53. Ukraine Analytica, Hanna Shelest
54. Smoloskyp Publishers, Rostyslav Shemkiv
55. Kyiv Security Forum, Danylo Lubkivsky
56. ProMova, Yevhen Hlibovytsky
57. Vaad of Ukraine, Josef Zissels
58. Democracy Development Initiative, Ksenia Kosheleva
59. Euromaidan SOS, Veronika Puhach
60. Institute of Mass Information, Oksana Romaniuk
61. Election Council UA, Yevhen Bystrytsky
62. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, prof. Ihor Kozlovsky
63. Ostroh Academy, prof. Andrii Smyrnov
64. Centre for Perspective Initiatives and Studies, Mykhailo Rudenko
65. Iskra Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, Irena Remestwenski
66. Regional Rada of Ukrainians in Crimea, Andriy Ivanets
67. Kyiv Mohyla Academy, prof. Konstantin Sigov
68. Institute of Information Security, Artem Bidenko
69. PEN Ukraine, Tetyana Teren
70. Larysa Denysenko, Writer, Attorney
71. PEN Ukraine, Andriy Lyubka
72. PEN Ukraine, Ostap Slyvynsky
73. Myroslava Barchuk, journalist
74. Ukrainian Institute, Alim Aliev
75. Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ola Hnatiuk
76. E-SOS, Veronika Velch
77. Ukrainian Catholic University, Vice-Rector, Myroslav Marynovych
78. Ukrainian Catholic University, Yaroslav Hrytsak
79. PEN Ukraine, Artem Chapeye
80. Vitaly Portnikov, journalist
81. Radio Culture, Iryna Slavinska
82. Almenda, Valentyna Potapova
83. Ukrainian Catholic University, Oleh Turiy
84. National Public Television, Yuri Makarov
85. Institute of Sociology of the NAS of Ukraine, Eugene Golovakha
86. University of Lviv, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Jurko Prochasko
87. UNIVER Investment Group, Taras Kozak
88. Politics of Nature (PoN), Frederik Lassen
89. Euromaidan Press, Alya Shandra
90. Behind the Putins Lie, Alona Romaniuk
91. University College Stockholm, Cyril Hovorun
92. Ukrainian Catholic University, Volodymyr Turchynovskyy
93. StopFake.org, Viktoriia Romaniuk
94. Internews Ukraine, Vitalii Rybak
95. Obnova, Natalia Bereza
96. Center for European Policy Analysis, Olga Tokariuk

97. America House Lviv, Volodymyr Byehlov
98. Association Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine, Svyatoslav Pavlyuk
99. East Europe Foundation, Oleksandra Pidenko

## **International Endorsements**

**The following are international endorsers of the call by Ukrainian civil Society for the Kyiv declaration:**

1. Dr Charles Powell CMG, Director, The Elcano Royal Institute
2. Nathalie Tocci, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali
3. Robin Niblett, Director, Chatham House
4. Jonathan Powell, CEO, Intermediate
5. Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, University of Oxford
6. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Former President of Estonia
7. Anthony Lake, Former National Security Advisor, President Bill Clinton
8. Alexander Stubb, Former Prime Minister of Finland
9. Radek Sikorski, Polish MEP and former Foreign Minister
10. Carl. Bildt, Former Prime Minister of Sweden
11. Bernard Henri Levy, French Philosopher
12. Tom Tugendhat, Chair of UK Foreign Affairs Select Committee
13. Tom Holland, Historian
14. Simon Schama, Historian
15. Rory Stewart, Former MP and Diplomat
16. Paul Greengrass, Film Director
17. Elinor Sisulu, South African Writer and Activist
18. Eka Tkeshelashvili, former deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Georgia
19. Valdis Zatlers - Former President of Latvia
20. Rosen Plevneliev - Former President of Bulgaria
21. Mikheil Saakashvili - Former President of Georgia
22. Žygimantas Pavilionis, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
23. Stephen Harper, Former PM of Canada
24. Senator Denise Batters, Q.C. - Canadian Politician