



March 15, 2022

**UCC Briefing Note
to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada**

Russia's war against Ukraine and Canada's response

Recommendations

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) calls on Canada to:

1. Work with allies to immediately implement a no-fly zone over Ukraine or provide Ukraine the aircraft and anti-air systems to secure Ukrainian airspace;
2. Develop and implement supports for Ukrainians who have been forced to leave Ukraine and are in the European Union;
3. Urgently institute a refugee program for Ukrainian citizens; develop and provide federal supports to Ukrainians who come to Canada on the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel and accept extended family members on the Family Reunification Program.

The Issue

As the UCC warned repeatedly in December 2021 and January Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Canada and allies are providing Ukraine with anti-tank, drones, and other defensive weapons, which are being used effectively to stall the Russian advance on Ukrainian cities. The UCC welcomes the provision of these weapons. The delivery of these weapons to Ukraine needs to continue and intensify. The Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people are fighting bravely resisting Russia's invasion.

Russia undertaking a campaign of terror bombing – a policy of genocide against Ukrainians—destroying Ukrainian cities and targeting Ukrainian civilians with air strikes, rocket attacks and artillery barrages. Hospitals, schools, civilian nuclear facilities, apartment buildings, and other civilian infrastructure is purposely targeted.

More than two weeks into Russia's offensive, Ukraine still has air power that is preventing Russia from gaining air superiority. Ukrainian pilots are inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. But Russia's air force and rocket systems are much more powerful than Ukraine's.

Ukraine's allies need to help protect Ukrainian civilians immediately from Russia's barbaric attacks from the air. A no-fly zone needs to be implemented by Ukraine's allies over Ukrainian territory.

Allies could also provide Ukraine with fighter jets, anti-aircraft systems (for example the S-300 system), and far more Stinger missile systems, as well as anti-rocket defenses.

Unfortunately, leaders of NATO states do not understand that the Russian regime already perceives itself to be at war with the West, not only with Ukraine. Should Ukraine fall, the Russian regime will directly challenge NATO's eastern members. The only way to prevent a far wider war is to help Ukraine defeat Russia. The place to stop Putin's Russia is Ukraine and the time to stop Putin's Russia is now.

Allied policy seems to be guided by a desire not to "provoke" Russia, which has the unintended practical effect of emboldening Russia – as the increasing brutality of Russian attacks on cities such as Mariupol and Kharkiv demonstrate.

The implementation of a no-fly zone over Ukraine is strongly supported by the Canadian people and our American allies. Two in three Canadians "support NATO enforcing a no-fly zone over Ukraine even at the risk of provoking a greater conflict between NATO and Russia," according to polling conducted by Abacus Data on March 9.

The UCC calls on Canada to:

- 1. Work with allies to immediately implement a no-fly zone over Ukraine or provide Ukraine the aircraft and anti-air systems to secure Ukrainian airspace.**

In only 19 days, over 2.5 million people have been forced to flee Ukraine because of Russia's campaign of targeting civilians.

The UCC has been in constant communication with the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC). It is our position that the IRCC does not appreciate the breadth and urgency of the humanitarian crisis facing Europe.

This is the largest migration of people caused by war in Europe since WWII. It requires a commensurate, realistic, and compassionate response from the Government of Canada.

The UCC calls on Canada to:

- 2. Develop and implement supports for Ukrainians who have been forced to leave Ukraine and are in EU states and Moldova;**
- 3. Urgently institute a refugee program for Ukrainian citizens; develop and provide federal supports to Ukrainians who come to Canada on the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel and accept extended family members on the Family Reunification Program.**