

Dear SPC members and friends,

This e-newsletter continues SPC's recent work to end the war on Ukraine. It contains:

- 1) A letter, reflecting on the past few weeks and sharing plans for moving forward.
- 2) Some resources on the war on Ukraine (more to come)
- 3) A list of suggested humanitarian aid organizations that we have compiled (more to come)

It was put together by the organizing team of SPC's March and Rally, an ad hoc group of activists including people from each of SPC's program committees, the steering committee, and other interested activists.

1) Reflecting on the Past Few Weeks

The tragedy occurring in Ukraine continues to escalate, and we collectively protest and grieve the war. We are horrified over the suffering of the Ukrainian people and have been riveted by their heroism, creativity, spirit and example. A week has passed since the SPC's March and Rally as part of the Global Day of Action for Peace in Ukraine. Planning for the March and Rally highlighted our unity, but also brought to light our differences in how lasting peace might be achieved.

We have many points of unity:

- We are united by our grief and our respect for the courage of the Ukrainian people.
- We are united by our demand that Russia immediately stop their invasion and withdraw all their troops. We demand diplomacy not war.
- We are united in our support of the Russians who are protesting the war working for peace and those who left the Russian military in protest
- We are united by our individual decisions to show up and stand up for peace.

But there are also differences both within the SPC community and with the community at large. People have had different life experiences and on some issues have come to different conclusions. Even within the group organizing the march and rally there were differences.

- There are differences as to what we believe the role of the United States has been and what this country should do now.
- There are differences in how we perceive the role of NATO and the role of sanctions and their effects on the Russian people.

These differences were highlighted at the March and Rally when Ukrainian-Americans (and some within the SPC community) attending were very upset by signs calling for "No Nato Expansion" and "Question Sanctions." SPC organizers emphasized our desire to find unity where

it exists while acknowledging differences. This, combined with our offer for several Ukrainian-Americans to speak, led to a powerful event we hope is only the beginning of a thoughtful and respectful dialogue.

There have been many conversations. Everyone is invited to join the conversation, listening to each other, as we work for the common goal of peace in Ukraine and an end to the war.

Moving forward

The organizing team is currently in the planning stages of a community forum. Everyone is invited to join the conversation. We are also reviewing and vetting humanitarian aid organizations and have compiled the following resources with plans to update.

Also, the Friday afternoon Street Heat continues its Ukraine focus (4-4:45pm, corner of Erie Blvd. and E. Genesee St. in DeWitt). Please join us.

2) Resources on War in Ukraine

What Has Been Happening in Ukraine/Basic Recent Timeline:

<https://www.vox.com/2022/2/23/22948534/russia-ukraine-war-putin-explosions-invasion-explained>

A good place to start for basic information. It includes a map and many photos to help understand what has happened since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Calls for diplomacy:

<https://otherwords.org/the-best-way-to-help-ukraine-is-diplomacy-not-war/>

Phyllis Bennis' call for diplomacy and what should be on the table for negotiation as well as what is not likely to be successful. The author reminds readers that Ukraine is not being considered for inclusion in NATO.

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/03/01/we-need-massive-push-peace-ukraine-now>

Rev. Jesse Jackson's call for peace, using strong moral language and reasoning.

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/diplomatic-compromise-ukrainian-neutrality-f-or-russia-withdrawal-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2022-03>

Jeffrey Sachs' call for diplomacy, invoking the Cuban missile crisis and why to pursue diplomacy even when uncertain whether it will work. The author acknowledges the need to compromise to achieve peaceful resolution

Risks of Escalation:

<https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/nuclear-war-russia-ukraine-invasion-putin-biden/>

How conventional war could lead to nuclear war,

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/03/the-terrible-case-for-a-no-fly-zone-in-ukraine.html>

Why a “No Fly Zone” would be a dangerous decision that would increase the chance of nuclear war

History of NATO, Russia and Ukraine:

<https://peterbeinart.substack.com/p/americas-generation-gap-on-ukraine?s=r>

Peter Beinart provides a short history lesson on debates in Washington after the Cold War over NATO expansion and predictions that NATO and NATO expansion would lead to increased conflict in Europe, since NATO is premised on conflict with Russia.

<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/02/15/the-origins-of-the-ukraine-crisis-and-how-conflict-can-be-avoided>

Jack F. Matlock, Jr., former ambassador to the Soviet Union (1987-1991) and author of three books about the negotiations that ended the Cold War, on how the conflict in Ukraine could have been avoided.

U.S. and World History:

<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/mournful-legacy>

Andrew Bacevich describes how the legacy of U.S. policy and war-making since Vietnam by key Presidential advisors impact the lens through which we understand war in Ukraine. He argues that two key shortcomings in U.S. analyses limit our thinking and advocates for incorporating moral realism.

<https://truthout.org/articles/noam-chomsky-a-no-fly-zone-over-ukraine-could-unleash-untold-violence/>

Noam Chomsky explains how the post-World War II global architecture is incapable of regulating issues of war and peace, how international law is flaunted, and describes how the West continues to reject Russia’s security concerns.

3) Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine – Resources

a) Information from Syracuse media. Syracuse.com’s [How to Help Ukraine from Central New York](#) by Marnie Eisenstadt was also printed in the March 13 Post Standard. It contains very local options and national options, all of which were suggested by members of the local Ukrainian community.

b) Charity organizations are offering a wide range of support for those affected by the war. Here are a few that have received high marks (three to four stars) from [Charity Navigator](#), which assesses groups' efficiency, transparency and other factors.

- [GlobalGiving](#) supports non-profits around the world through crowdfunding. Its Ukrainian crisis relief fund is working toward a goal of \$7m to provide food, water, shelter, and other assistance to refugees.
- [Direct Relief](#) is working to fulfill a list of medical needs provided to the organization by Ukraine's health ministry.
- Care, a 75-year-old organization operating in 100 countries, is working to provide food, water and hygiene kits to those suffering in Ukraine. [Donate here](#) as Care seeks to support 4 million people.
- **Doctors Without Borders**, a 50-year-old Nobel-winning organization, has teams in Ukraine as well as surrounding countries as it works to send staff and medical supplies to the hardest-hit areas. [Donate here](#) to support its efforts in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world.
- **Save the Children**, a century-old organization that has worked in 100 countries, has a [Ukraine crisis relief fund](#) aimed at furnishing children and families with food, hygiene kits, funding and more.
- **The International Rescue Committee** has teams working in Poland aiding displaced families. The organization, founded in 1933, operates in 40 countries and donations go to food, medical treatment, and other emergency care in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and elsewhere. [Donate here](#) to the IRC's work around the world.
- **Razom**, a Ukrainian-focused charity founded in 2014, is furnishing medical supplies to the country and working to "amplify the voices of Ukrainians". It has not been evaluated by Charity Navigator but has received wide coverage in the US media. [Donate here](#).

c) The Unitarian-Universalist Association has compiled the following resources

Medical support

- [Help Ukraine Center](#) ([Donate](#), [Physical Donations](#)) – Polish-German initiative powered by the Ernst Prost Foundation. Medicines and other essential humanitarian products will be delivered to regions that need it the most, in cooperation with our partners: General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, ROZETKA, Fozzy Group, TIS, Dragon Capital, Spunbond fund, Ukrposhta.

- [RAZOM: Emergency Response](#) – for tactical medical training. Help qualified war medics teach civilians first aid and provide them with medical supplies. **Now sourcing funding for a cargo plane shipment of medical aid.**
- [United Ukrainian American Relief Committee \(Donate\)](#) – provide vital medical supplies to victims, care for the injured and refugees, as well as shelter and food to those affected.
- [Sunflower of Peace](#) – for medical assistance and other necessities. Each IFAK (medical backpack) can save up to 10 lives.
- [Lifeline Ukraine](#) – for psychosocial support. Ukraine’s first suicide prevention hotline mobilized in response to alarming rates of veteran suicide.

Veterans and internally displaced persons

- [Future Kyiv Charitable Foundation \(Donate\)](#) – collection of charitable contributions for the purchase of humanitarian aid to Kyiv residents, organized by the Kyiv Municipal Government.
- [Caritas Ukraine](#) – provision of humanitarian assistance to various social groups and those impacted by the conflict. More information [here](#).
- [CrimeaSOS](#) – assistance to internally displaced persons from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. With the support and partnership of UNHCR, it promotes community initiatives for these groups.
- [British-Ukraine Aid](#) – assistance to vulnerable individuals who have been physically, mentally or socially disadvantaged, including the injured and wounded, orphaned children, the elderly, internally displaced persons and families who have lost their main earners. More information [here](#).
- [People in Need: SOS Ukraine](#) – for provision of food and sanitation packages, emergency shelter, psychosocial support, and more in Donetsk and Luhansk, both in territory under the control of the Ukrainian government and in territory not currently under government control.
- [UN Crisis Relief: Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund](#) – contributions are collected into a single, unearmarked fund and managed locally under UN leadership. As crises evolve, funds are made directly and immediately available to a wide range of partner organizations at the front lines of response. This way, funding reaches the people most in need when they need it.

LGBTQIA+ aid

- [Insight NGO \(Donate\)](#) – A Ukrainian human rights public organization which brings together lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people.
- [Ukrainian LGBT Military for Equal Rights Association](#) – support LGBT military in their fight on the frontline and for equality of all citizens at home.

Children

- [Help Us Help](#) – donations will be used to fund the following: evacuation and relocation of staff and beneficiaries (children, scholars and veteran families), humanitarian aid delivery, and medical assistance for victims.
- [Save the Children - Ukraine](#) – distribute essential humanitarian aid to children and their families; deliver winter and hygiene kits; provide cash grants to families so they can meet basic needs like food, rent and medicines; provide access to safe, inclusive, quality education; work to help children overcome the mental and psychological impacts of conflict.
- [Voices of Children](#) – psychological/psychosocial support for children affected by the war.
- [Saint Javelin](#) – all proceeds of shirt and sticker sales go to a fund for the children of fallen and wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

d) These are just a few of the groups you can support; see more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).