



Speaking Peace to Power

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Ukraine

Here are some of the actions that we believe would help end the war in Ukraine and promote long-term peace:

Prioritize a diplomatic solution.

A full-scale diplomatic press for a negotiated end to the crisis and a pathway for mutual security is urgently needed. U.S. diplomats should support and participate in negotiations for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the targeting of civilians, and an enduring settlement to the conflict. Rather than focusing on punishing Russia as its priority, the United States must be willing to offer compromises, such as lifting sanctions and limiting arms transfers, to help stop the fighting as quickly as possible.

Provide generous and sustained humanitarian aid.

Congress and the Administration can help save lives immediately and over the months to come by supporting humanitarian aid and refugee resettlement. It is important to offer such assistance not only to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, but also to communities that host refugees and displaced persons, often at significant risk and sacrifice. Aid to Ukrainians must not come at the expense of those fleeing violence elsewhere, too many of whom have been forgotten and overlooked while their situations have become even more dire.

Support local peacebuilding, nonviolent movements, and conscientious objectors.

Far too little attention is paid to the work of peacebuilding, and insufficient resources are made available for peacebuilding approaches. The State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development should be working with and through the United Nations and its affiliates to support nonviolent civilian resisters, peace activists, conscientious objectors, human rights defenders, civic leaders, and unarmed civilian protection networks in Russia, Ukraine, and neighboring countries. They should engage with civil society groups to monitor human rights, prevent and document atrocities, correct misinformation, address psycho-social trauma, and promote social cohesion. If local groups want it, U.S. support can be financial, diplomatic, technical, or in the form of education and training. It must preserve partners' dignity, legitimacy, and independence.

Lead a new approach to global cooperation and shared security.

The crisis in Ukraine is not only devastating thousands of lives but also fueling more global conflict and militarism. It may drive a new era of big power conflicts, proxy wars, and oppression. Instead, we need to recognize our interconnectedness as a global community and the futility of militarized approaches to address the problems we face. Congress and the Administration should begin to reexamine U.S. national security paradigms and policies, which are deeply rooted in racism and militarism. They must engage with multilateral institutions, civil society, and other regional and global powers to develop new structures and systems for cooperative security grounded in a more just, equitable, and sustainable vision for our world.