

WIN WITHOUT WAR



We strongly condemn this premeditated act of aggression by Russia.

- While tensions in and around Ukraine have a long historical origin, there is no justification for this international act of aggression.
- While the deployment of Russian troops to Donetsk and Luhansk merely makes public a presence that has persisted for years covertly, the potential for a dramatic expansion of war in Donbas and throughout Ukraine is dangerous and worrisome.
- The methodical and clear military preparations by Russia for this action over the last few months, despite extensive diplomacy to de-escalate and diplomatic offramps offered by the international community, make clear that any further conflict is a war of Russia's choosing.

We urge all parties to immediately cease hostilities and seek a diplomatic resolution to the current conflict.

- Diplomacy remains the only hope to avoid further catastrophic conflict, including the possible expansion of this war both throughout Ukraine and beyond its borders.
- An immediate ceasefire is the only way to mitigate the risk of full-scale war, and the U.S. should engage in robust diplomacy to secure one.
- Diplomacy can and should include broader issues of concern for the parties that enable not just a temporary ceasefire but ultimately a lasting and sustainable peace.
- It is key to ensure that civil society be included in conversations around a lasting and sustainable peace.

We are grateful for the Biden Administration's persistent diplomatic efforts to avoid an unnecessary war and encourage him to lead a coordinated, multilateral response to Russia's actions, including a humanitarian effort to support refugees fleeing any fighting.

- President Biden's Administration has engaged in significant diplomacy, at the highest levels, over the past several months to try and prevent this outcome.
- Further diplomacy will be necessary to coordinate a multilateral response to Russia's recent actions, any further escalation, and, importantly, to address humanitarian needs.
- Given the potential for further violence and escalation, including an unthinkable direct conflict between the world's two largest nuclear powers, the United States' efforts should be driven by our diplomats with an aim towards de-escalation.
- We appreciate President Biden's repeated commitment to keep U.S. military personnel out of any conflict in Ukraine and stress that any new military deployments must be done in full compliance with Congress' constitutional war powers and the provisions of the War Powers Resolution.

War is inherently violent, deadly, and destructive, and we are in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and all those impacted by this conflict.

- Estimates of the human costs of a full-scale war in Ukraine are massive, yet not nearly enough has been done to prepare for and prevent the worst in terms of human suffering.
- We must not lose sight that real human lives are being harmed, whether as a result of fighting, displacement, or the impact of sanctions on Russia and their likely economic retaliation.
- While troop movements and fighting dominate the news, people are suffering and their stories should not be erased by a singular focus on the violence causing that suffering and the political leaders directing it.