

Avi Lewis

Democracies are under attack. In your view, what kinds of support should Ukraine get?

First and foremost, it is critical that Canada continues to provide Ukraine with political and diplomatic support. This starts with recognizing that the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was a wanton, illegal act of aggression against a democratic country by a brutal dictator. Canada must advocate for a peace agreement that is not imposed on Ukraine unilaterally by Trump and Putin, but involves the full participation of Ukraine and European nations and does not require Ukraine to cede one square metre of its sovereign territory. Secondly, the Canadian government should provide funding and technical assistance to rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure, institutions and public services. Notably, Canada should use its influence to oppose any attempts to sell off Ukrainian public assets or natural resources. Ukraine needs a Marshall Plan, not a Shock Doctrine. To help finance this rebuild, Canada should allocate any funds seized from Russian oligarchs and advocate for the cancellation of Ukraine's debt. In addition, we should promote cultural exchanges between Ukraine and Canada and support organizations that are telling the stories of Ukraine or the Ukrainian diaspora through the arts.

Will you support continued military support for Ukraine?

Yes

Will you support increased military aid to Ukraine?

Did not answer

While Canada has applied sanctions to Ukraine, Russia is still able to sell oil to Canada via various loopholes, and [assets from sanctions remain frozen](#). Will you support increased sanctions on Russian oil and gas and closing of sanction loopholes?

Yes

What connections do you see between the genocides in Palestine and Ukraine?

Our approach to foreign policy must be morally consistent: occupation is always wrong, whether in Palestine or Ukraine. Both Russia and Israel have carried out war crimes for which their military and political leadership must be held accountable. We have a responsibility to condemn violations of international law, including annexation, wherever they're occurring, whether that's in Gaza, the West Bank, Crimea or the Donbas.

How can you use your platform to amplify Ukrainian social movements, particularly those that support working people and trade unions in Ukraine?

Avi's NDP would work alongside Canadian unions to build solidarity with trade unions in Ukraine, to advance workers' rights and strengthen Ukrainian democracy.

Ukrainians were able to access a special work visa program to come to Canada. Would you be in favour of open armed support for displaced persons from all war torn countries (e.g. Gaza, Sudan)?

Yes. Canada should be a safe haven for those seeking refuge from conflict. The Liberal-Conservative push towards making us a less welcoming country, including through Bill C-12, will put refugees at risk and must be strongly opposed.

Acknowledging that all people on temporary work visas/temporary foreign workers should be able to access status in Canada, what would you do to assist immigrants, including Ukrainians, to get permanent resident status?

As leader, Avi would push for the reversal of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada job cuts to address processing delays and ensure that newcomers from Ukraine and around the world have access to the services they need to become permanent residents.

Will you commit to speaking publicly about your support for Ukraine?

Yes

Heather McPherson

Democracies are under attack. In your view, what kinds of support should Ukraine get?

Financial support

Sanctions on Russia - enforced - money to go to help Ukraine

Strategic military training and support

Support for Ukrainians fleeing the war - visa extension

Work with allies to support Ukraine and counter American vacillation

Support for Ukraine to join NATO

Will you support continued military support for Ukraine?

Yes

Will you support increased military aid to Ukraine?

Yes

While Canada has applied sanctions to Ukraine, Russia is still able to sell oil to Canada via various loopholes, and assets from sanctions remain frozen. Will you support increased sanctions on Russian oil and gas and closing of sanction loopholes?

Yes

What connections do you see between the genocides in Palestine and Ukraine?

Both Palestine and Ukraine are suffering genocides perpetrated by governments with direct (Israel) and indirect (Russia) support from the US. Ukrainians and Palestinians share a history of colonization by antagonistic states that seek to end their culture and identity.

How can you use your platform to amplify Ukrainian social movements, particularly those that support working people and trade unions in Ukraine?

I have been a vocal leader in the House of Commons advocating for Ukraine. I traveled to Ukraine to build alliances with leaders. I have used all my platforms - in Parliament, on social media, through speeches to groups, in the media, and via my writing to advocate for Ukraine. I also have worked closely with labour unions in Canada that are allied with trade unions in Ukraine.

Ukrainians were able to access a special work visa program to come to Canada. Would you be in favour of open armed support for displaced persons from all war torn countries (e.g. Gaza, Sudan)?

Yes

Acknowledging that all people on temporary work visas/temporary foreign workers should be able to access status in Canada, what would you do to assist immigrants, including Ukrainians, to get permanent resident status?

Yes

Will you commit to speaking publicly about your support for Ukraine?

Yes

Further Comments:

Please visit my MP website to see my long history of support for Ukraine: heathermcperson.ndp.ca and read about my trip to Ukraine: <https://www.policymagazine.ca/policy-dispatches-witnessing-the-indestructible-spirit-of-ukraine/>

Rob Ashton

Democracies are under attack. In your view, what kinds of support should Ukraine get?

Ukraine deserves political, economic, humanitarian, and military support to defend its sovereignty and protect civilians. Canada should stand firmly against authoritarian aggression and support the Ukrainian people in rebuilding.

Will you support continued military support for Ukraine?

Yes

Will you support increased military aid to Ukraine?

Yes

While Canada has applied sanctions to Ukraine, Russia is still able to sell oil to Canada via various loopholes, and [assets from sanctions remain frozen](#). Will you support increased sanctions on Russian oil and gas and closing of sanction loopholes?

Yes

What connections do you see between the genocides in Palestine and Ukraine?

I do not believe in comparing atrocities, because doing so risks diminishing anyone's suffering. Both crises involve powerful states using military force against civilian populations, violations of international law, and efforts to erase national identity and self-determination. Innocent people — kids, workers, families, and communities — are the ones harmed. These struggles remind us that international solidarity, human rights, and the protection of civilians must be universal and not selective.

How can you use your platform to amplify Ukrainian social movements, particularly those that support working people and trade unions in Ukraine?

I will work with Canadian unions, international labour organizations, and Ukrainian worker-led movements to amplify their voices. That means elevating their demands in Parliament, meeting with Ukrainian trade unionists, and pushing for reconstruction plans that protect workers' rights, safeguard public services, and prevent corporate exploitation.

Ukrainians were able to access a special work visa program to come to Canada. Would you be in favour of open armed support for displaced persons from all war torn countries (e.g. Gaza, Sudan)?

Yes -- Every person fleeing war deserves safety. Canada should apply the same compassion and urgency for all displaced people, with fast pathways to protection, work, and stability.

Acknowledging that all people on temporary work visas/temporary foreign workers should be able to access status in Canada, what would you do to assist immigrants, including Ukrainians, to get permanent resident status?

I support clear, fast, and fair pathways to permanent residency for temporary workers and displaced people. That includes removing exploitation in the work-permit system, recognizing credentials, strengthening settlement supports, and ensuring families can reunite without delay.

Will you commit to speaking publicly about your support for Ukraine?

Yes