

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?

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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?

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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?

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Yes

Name and contact information:

Peyton Veitch, issues@lewisforleader.ca

Further Comments:

Submitted on behalf of Avi Lewis by Peyton Veitch, Policy Director, Lewis for Leader Campaign.

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?

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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

Name and contact information:

Heather McPherson - contact@heathermcpherson.ca

Further Comments:

Please visit my MP website to see my long history of support for Ukraine: heathermcpherson.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?

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Will you support increased military aid to Ukraine?

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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?

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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?

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Yes

Name and contact information:

Rob Ashton - info@robashton.ca

Further Comments:

Tanille Johnston:

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

We must be clear and stand against the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine. Canada has a proud history of upholding human rights, international law, and the principles of territorial integrity. We must support all peoples who are facing invasion, occupation, and genocide. Our support for Ukrainians should be based on what Ukrainian civil society and the labour movement need. That means supporting Ukrainians through diplomatic support, sanctions on Russia, financial aid to Ukraine, sending existing arms stockpiles, standing with our European allies against Trump's pro-Putin agenda, a fast-track path to refugee status including family reunification supports, and pushing for a people's peace not an imperial peace.

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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?

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Yes

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

Both Israel's actions in Palestine and Russia's actions in Ukraine meet the internationally agreed-upon standard for genocide. There are some who condemn Russia's actions but excuse Israel's, and others who condemn Israel but refuse to condemn Russia. We have to be morally consistent. We cannot say that we support people who are facing bombardment, starvation, and war crimes while ignoring others. We in the NDP must also stand with the Sudanese, Congolese, and Yemeni people, who are also facing starvation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in their countries. Both the Ukrainian and Palestinian peoples suffer from a history of colonialism at the hands of their neighbours. Leaders in both Russia and Israel have used dehumanizing language to claim that either the Palestinian or the Ukrainian people do not really exist. Both have relied on ultra-nationalist claims and pseudo-historical narratives to erase Ukrainian and Palestinian history and culture. This shared pattern of expansionist and settler-colonial policies explain why Israel has refused to impose sanctions on Russia or send arms to Ukraine.

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

Our campaign hosted an international solidarity webinar where we platformed Palestinian, Ukrainian, and South American voices who spoke about the war crimes being committed in their home countries and about what Canadians can do to advocate for peace and justice at home and abroad. We should encourage international working-class solidarity with trade unions around the world.

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, that means extending special work visa programs to people suffering from war and displacement abroad. We must also ensure robust family reunification pathways and establish medical evacuation programs so that Ukrainians, Palestinians, Sudanese, and others affected by conflict can receive treatment in Canadian hospitals. We must be clear: Canada has a responsibility to provide safe-haven for displaced people from war-torn countries. We also unequivocally condemn any efforts by Liberals or Conservatives to strip refugees of access to essential healthcare.

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?

The Liberals' recent layoffs of public servants have drastically increased wait times for immigrants applying for permanent residency. These cuts are undermining the integrity and efficiency of our immigration system. We need to reverse these cuts and properly staff our immigration services. We should also fast-track permanent residency for people from countries suffering from war and conflict ensure robust family reunification pathways and make sure that every resident, regardless of immigration status, has access to healthcare.

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

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Yes

Name and contact information:

Tanille Johnston

Further Comments:

It is the responsibility of countries like Canada to stand firmly against war crimes and genocide, no matter which country is responsible. our campaign wants to acknowledge the deep harm caused when a former member of the Waffen-SS was given a standing ovation in our Parliament in 2023. That moment caused real pain to Jewish communities, Ukrainians, Poles, and all those whose families suffered under Nazi atrocities. At a time meant to symbolize solidarity between Ukrainians and Canadians, Canada failed you. That should never have happened. As an Indigenous person, I became political the moment I received my status card. I understand firsthand the lasting harms of colonialism, of land-theft. That is why I am committed to building solidarity with people facing oppression around the world.