

RESOLUTION NO. 11

CLUW Calls for Diplomacy, Not Militarism

CLUW has long been committed to labor's voice being heard in matters of militarism, war, peace and US foreign policy, extending to the current national debate; and

The Russian invasion of Ukraine constitutes a gross violation of the UN Charter. This act of aggression is inflicting horrific pain, suffering, and death on the civilian population of Ukraine, while forcing more than 4 million people to flee the country as refugees, and creating the risk of a wider conflict that could spiral into a nuclear war from which there will be no winners.

The US and NATO have played a provocative role in precipitating this crisis by expanding NATO's ranks and deploying strategic military forces to Russia's borders.

The US has a destructive history of a militarized foreign policy that is driven by the interests of corporations, including but not limited to the oil and arms sectors, a policy that siphons resources away from programs that serve public needs.

CLUW has long asserted that true national security is based on the broad welfare of the people – healthcare, education, jobs at decent wages, environmental sustainability, voting rights and democratic civic engagement, and social justice – not on larger military budgets and ever more deadly weapons.

Current atrocities underline the need to pursue a diplomatic solution to this crisis, to achieve the full withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine and the construction of a new architecture of European security and nuclear disarmament.

Coalition of Labor Union Women
22nd Biennial Convention
Minneapolis, MN
November 10 – 12, 2023

Working people in the US, as well as those in Russia and Ukraine, have a common interest in reining in the power of their militaries and redirecting the vast resources going to war into programs that improve their lives and address the climate emergency.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Coalition of Labor Union Women recommends that the AFL-CIO express our solidarity with the working people of both Ukraine and Russia, including those who have bravely demonstrated their opposition to Russia's aggression; and condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, just as the AFL-CIO previously condemned the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

We recommend that the AFL-CIO demand an immediate diplomatic solution that ensures the withdrawal of all Russian and other foreign military and paramilitary forces from Ukraine and respects Ukrainian sovereignty.

We recommend that the AFL-CIO denounce the discriminatory treatment of refugees based on race, religion, national origin, or whether their governments are allied with the United States, which leads the United States and its European allies to welcome white Ukrainians while rejecting refugees of color and refugees who have been harmed by US-supported military operations.

We recommend that the AFL-CIO denounce the selective moral outrage that is evident in the near universal silence we are witnessing in the West regarding war crimes perpetrated by the United States and its allies in Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine, Iran, Venezuela, and elsewhere, and we hereby demand that Western governments welcome all refugees and pursue policies of peace and justice that enable them to stay in their home countries.

CLUW is deeply concerned with the ways in which the Russian war highlights the dangers of fossil fuel dependency. We reject the economic policies that are deepening the climate crisis and demand that our government reject calls for drilling more oil and gas here in the United States. Rather, this moment requires that we break our dependence on fossil fuels altogether by investing in renewable energy.

CLUW recommends that the AFL-CIO call upon the US government to lend its support to negotiations for a new architecture of European common security for all states that leads to the drawdown and elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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CLUW calls on the AFL-CIO, all affiliate unions, and all other labor organizations in the United States to reaffirm that diplomacy, not war and military power, is the only way to promote security and prosperity for working people in Ukraine, in Russia, in the US, and around the world.

CLUW supports legislation that significantly reduces the excessive Pentagon budget without cutting pay or benefits of those serving in the US military. One such bill is HR 1134, the People Over the Pentagon Act, introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Rep. Mark Pohan (D-WI), which would reduce the Pentagon budget by \$100 billion.

CLUW also supports de-escalation, ceasefire and a diplomatic approach to resolve the conflict between Gaza and Israel, that has already cost almost 20,000 lives, approximately 4000 of whom were children. We call for additional humanitarian aid and safe passage to deliver it. And we call for the release of all hostages taken in the course of these hostilities.

CLUW calls on its Chapters to work locally with other unions, labor organizations, and peace and justice organizations to amplify this message and the voice of working people in matters of foreign policy. CLUW affirms that it stands with working people worldwide on behalf of peace and justice.

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Date: September 2, 2023

Title: CLUW Calls for Diplomacy, Not Militarism

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