

NVC and nonviolent initiatives in Ukraine requiring financial or expertise resourcing:

1.Ukrainian NONVIOLENT Peacebuilders (link to follow):

<https://bit.ly/PeaceMakersUkraine>

2. NVC trainer led Empathy initiative offered in Ukrainian, Russian and English.

If you have high level empathy skills and can offer one or more 30min-1 hour slot per week, you can sign up to the powerful support network being held by our colleague Lena K, who left Ukraine for temporary lodgings in Berlin in the first week of the invasion. There is a simple Google form (link follows) which will enable you to opt to join a small team via Telegram, WhatsApp and/or email.

The prediction is that there is likely to be a huge surge in people wanting to access emotional support in the coming weeks.

(There is more info and explanation on the Google form. If you have core questions beyond this try contacting Ozge or Laura via our NVC-UK Facilitators page):

2b. If you would like to help fund Lena herself, as she steps into challenging leadership roles in what is also a time of trauma for her and those she loves, please follow the prompts below and contact : ozgealtinkaya@yahoo.com who writes:

Hi all,

As some of you already know, my/our friend, colleague NVC trainer Lena Kashkarova from Ukraine, together with her friends, has set up a vast empathic listening support network for Ukrainians and did incredible fundraising for the defence and resistance in Kyiv.

...I would like to mobilize support for Lena herself. She is in Berlin at the moment, staying with a community, and has used up most of her resources for supporting her friends and defence and resistance. We don't know how long her stay will be, when she will be able to start working again, and she is also supporting her friends and families of some of her friends financially. She might not be able to continue doing this...

I chose not to set up a Go Fund Me campaign as its complexity is beyond my capacity at the moment. Instead, I chose to keep this informal and simple, to rely on the trust you have for me and/or Lena. So, I simply want to invite you to support

Lena by sending money to her account via wise.com money sending platform. I have been using wise.com for over two years. It is simple, cheap and totally safe. I have made a video of how to use it (below). I am also ready to assist you if you need it.

How to use wise.com:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jhYYuGgBLyUqpfhITZ4RDnvEtmGrZ-j_/view?usp=sharing (8 min)

My email is above, and I can forward Lena's bank details when you are ready to use the platform.

For the reference box (explanation for your transfer), you can just write "Support Lena" or anything you want to write.

If you want to support her but wise.com is not working for you for any reason, please contact me. We can try to figure out another way.

Please contact me also if you have any questions.

I might be sending emails with the same request for her in the coming months if she is low in resources again. This way, maybe also we can support her in rotation, ongoingly (some people who cannot send now, may send next time or vice versa).

With solidarity, hope and gratitude,

Özge

Discussions/information

Here are several helpful discussions/workshops about the crisis

[Professor Paul Rogers](#) from Bradford University and invited by Peace News to gave an overview of the Ukraine crisis and how we got here. (35 mins)

[Demilitarise U](#) – US veterans for peace organisation share perspectives on propaganda and misleading narratives, the dangers of US militarized intervention and how we got to this place

[Russian invasion shows risks of fossil fuel](#) addiction – Democracy Now. Highlights the links of this crisis to fossil fuel extraction and transportation. (15 mins)

<https://medium.com/presencing-institute-blog/putin-and-the-power-of-collective-action-from-shared-awareness-a-12-point-meditation-2df81cd54b1e> This article has put me in a deep

discernment, still thinking if speaking to the collective action that comes from a shared awareness can be hope-giving base for any action we might take for the crisis.

Özge (article 5 min scan, 10-15 min read)

The capacity of societies to hold spaces for making sense of complex social issues and analyze them from different perspectives is in most countries under attack and dissipating.

This phenomenon, when a group of leaders begins to act from a *shared seeing* and a *shared awareness* of the whole situation — rather than from a multitude of abstract and narrowly defined national agendas — is what I refer to as Collective Action from Shared Awareness (CASA).

“Winter on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom” on Netflix. Documents Ukraine’s 2014 Revolution

Art about Ukraine

[The Earth is Blue as an Orange](#)

Exquisitely shot and bold in its approach, director Iryna Tsilyk’s documentary follows single mother Anna and her four children as they document their lives under siege in Donbas, Ukraine.

Questioning the power of cinema and the magical world it helps create during times of disaster, this exceptional documentary won the World Cinema Documentary Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

With miraculous insight, the film observes a family—and a filmmaker— who cope with war by using their cameras and working in tandem to create meaning and to stay human.

**PUTIN'S
STRATEGY**
**RELIGIOUS
ROOTS OF
UKRAINE
CRISIS**

Has Vladimir Putin gone mad? It is a question hinted at when the British Prime Minister accused him of behaving "irrationally" towards Ukraine. But the understanding of Putin's motives seems to stop there, an implicit attempt to shame him into acting rationally. But in another reality, populated by ideas familiar enough in Russia, his determination to resist its enemies even to the death is not mad or irrational but necessary, and dictated by Providence. In a broadcast to the Russian people in which he explained why their armed forces were crossing the frontier into Ukraine's Donbas region, Putin asserted that Ukraine itself was not a legitimate sovereign nation with its own government but an invalid "regime" imposed by the West out of a desire to hurt Russia.

Is this pure paranoia? What is this Russia he talks about? This is where Putin abandons the conventional geopolitical realities. In their place he puts a kind of Russian Exceptionalism – a word more often used about the United States' view of itself. The usual rules do not apply. Exceptionalism trumps both international and domestic law, hence Russia's willingness to assassinate its enemies wherever in the world they may be hiding. Its rationale is not just historical but also theological, and it is at this point that the Western sceptical secular mind might start to disengage. Conventional western wisdom is that Putin is simply an expansionist power-grabber wanting to strengthen global Russian influence. It lacks the imagination to see what is happening in anything other than purely material terms.

But the evidence indicates that Putin believes, as fervently as the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, that there is a mystical union in what used to be the land of Holy Rus between the sacred land, the sacred people who inhabit it, and the sacred Orthodox faith. The land itself is an icon, concealing and revealing the presence of God. That last ingredient is crucial.

In Putin's mind, and to varying degrees the minds of the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church itself, "Holy Rus" is the Kingdom of Heaven, the eternal tsardom of God in heaven and earth. The land of Holy Rus is thus a holy space, a mystical "New Israel", where the one true religion is practised and all others within its borders are not just illicit but wrong and to be banished. The rulers of such a space have a duty before God to preserve and protect it. The Tsars were ordained by God to do so. Putin seems to see himself in the same light.

This Eastern Orthodox insistence on being rooted in territorial sacred space is in contrast to the more pragmatic Western approach. Christian and secular, which sees nation states and church jurisdictions as separate. This was not always so, and both Protestant and Catholic Christianity have seen various expressions of the idea of a Chosen People, exceptional among the nations. Putin's address to the Russian people this week was a kind of summary of a 5,500 word essay he wrote last year, now published in English. Its labyrinthine complexity will have defeated most Western foreign policy analysts, who might have

wondered what on earth is the relevance of events of more than 1,000 years ago: the foundation of the Ancient Rus people centred on Kyiv (Kiev), with the conversion there of St Vladimir the Great. He ruled a realm which incorporated what is now Russia, together with modern Ukraine and Belarus.

This idea is central to Putin's geopolitical vision. Ukraine, capital Kyiv, was the senior partner in this three-fold expression of Christian civilisation. It was "orthodox" in that it had the one true faith, contrary to the claims of Rome. Its centre moved east to Moscow in 1589, which became known as the "Third Rome" after the alleged apostasy of the papacy and the conquest of Constantinople had eclipsed the other two. The Moscow Patriarch's authority spread over the whole of ancient Rus. Not least of the reasons for regarding Ukraine as illegitimate in Putin's mind is the disowning of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) by the Moscow Patriarchate. When the OCU came into being in 2018 it confirmed that Ukraine's break with Moscow was intended to be spiritual as well as political. The Russian Orthodox Church still claims jurisdiction over Ukrainian territory, and like Putin, does not recognise Ukraine as an independent nation or the OCU as an independent Orthodox Church. The creation of the OCU triggered a great schism in world Orthodoxy when the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople issued a certificate of independence, called a *tomos*. This granted the OCU the canonical status of autocephaly, meaning freedom from other Orthodox church jurisdictions (except his own). The Moscow Patriarchate promptly excommunicated and anathematised Bartholomew. The Catholic Church maintains relations with both Patriarchates.

This then is the answer to the question: what is in Putin's mind when he thinks about Ukraine? It is deeply felt and sincere. The departure of Ukraine from the alliance of three nations descended from the Ancient Rus hurts him personally, and it is not an exaggeration to say he is obsessed with it. But the question that arises now is this: how many Russians share his commitment to restoring the old order, by which he means not the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics but a mystical union of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, the three lands ruled from Kyiv by the other Vladimir after AD 980?

Do the Russian military, the faceless Moscow bureaucrats, the billionaire kleptocrats and the ruthless thugs of the FSB (formerly the KGB) who surround him share his mystical destiny to restore a new heaven on earth, ruled by him personally? Or do they perhaps wonder what in heaven and earth has the Christianity of the Gospels, especially Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, have to do with territorial aggression against a neighbour on the flimsiest of pretexts? Even if they are faithful Orthodox Christians, might they think that a holy land would be defiled and desecrated by killing in its name?

The West's response to Putin's Ukrainian adventure must drive a wedge between him and his associates, accomplices and financiers, by raising the cost of their support for his wayward mystical ambitions until it is too much to bear.

medicine humanitarian aid to areas of conflict - and have current initiatives to bring: 1st aid equipment, medicines, and medical training, into Ukraine. At GRM, on the donation page, there is a drop down box to choose funds go to Ukraine. GRM has a donor who will currently match donations given to Ukraine up to their \$150,000 goal (currently at about \$52,00). So for every dollar someone gives, the donor gives a dollar until they reach about \$250,000. More information is available on the websites.

[Global Response Management](#)
[Doctors without Borders](#)

Articles: History, Politics of Conflict from 1940s to today

[University of Pennsylvania \(USA\) Article](#) - History Professor - Russia and Ukraine - 1940s to today

[NY Times Opinion](#) - Failure to Consider Needs - Political and Historical considerations - back to the 1980s and 1990s

[**A Tale of Two Wars: Biden Decries Russian Atrocities in Ukraine While Backing Saudi/UAE War in Yemen**](#)

[**Marina Ovsyannikova ran on to the set of the Channel One transmission shouting: 'Stop the war. No to war'**](#)

[Daily Ukrainian blog](#)

A [comment](#) on the systemic racism at play in approaches to receiving refugees

Article on WNV on [Turning Solidarity for Ukrainian refugees into a new norm for all refugees](#)