

New Unity Movement



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STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

As a movement committed to the struggle for the global emancipation of the working class, the New Unity Movement joins its voice to that of all progressive forces in South Africa and across the world who are demanding that Russia immediately ends its aggression against the people of Ukraine. We strongly condemn the Putin regime's invasion of Ukraine, but we equally strongly condemn the nefarious posturing of the US and its NATO allies, in self-righteously casting themselves as the "good guys" and the Russian regime as the "bad guys."

This is a turf war – a big-power struggle among capitalist ruling classes, which has its origins in the Cold War of the twentieth century. As a national state, Russia will declare that it is acting in self-defence, that it is protecting its borders from Western encroachment. If the puppet regime in Kyiv succeeds in joining Ukraine with NATO, that will put NATO within shouting distance of Moscow. Just as Kennedy in the 1960s refused to allow Khrushchev to install nuclear warheads in Cuba, so, Putin would argue, it is necessary that he draws the line at Ukraine.

It is well-known that the government which came to power by violently overthrowing the elected government of Ukraine in 2014, and now headed up by fascist Volodymyr Zelensky, is fiercely pro-Western, and has the enduring objective of taking Ukraine into the US/Nato alliance of nations. It is also well-known that this "alliance of nations" is actually an alliance of capitalist/imperialist rulers whose iron grip on global society has brought us to the current world crisis, where billions are starving while a tiny handful enjoy untold wealth and abundance, a world where capitalism has put us on a collision-course with extinction.

The ultimate hypocrisy was demonstrated by Western heads of state, including Boris Johnson of the UK, who shrieked for sanctions against Russia when the invasion began. Yet, in a 23 February article, Bloomberg News disclosed that "The West each day continues to buy hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of resources from Russia, indirectly financing the Ukrainian crisis. So, the simple strategy was to stockpile oil and natural gas, THEN call for sanctions!

As a movement whose foundational principles include non-racialism, we are greatly disturbed by reports of naked racism on the part of Ukrainians who are discriminating against people of African origin who are also trying to flee the country in the wake of the Russian invasion. Furthermore, we see it as a bitter irony that the countries of Western Europe are eagerly opening their arms to welcome Ukrainian refugees, whereas they fought tooth-and-nail to keep out refugees escaping wars in countries like Syria, Iraq and Africa.

We are not surprised to see how the Western media has risen to the task of promoting pro-Ukrainian sentiment. This is the same media that ignores the oppression and suffering of the Palestinian people, the same media that is silent on the human rights violations occurring in the Saudi war against Yemen.

The SA government's response to the situation has been predictably feeble at best. Our ANC-led government bows to both its masters, the West and Russia, so all it is capable of doing is issuing some inconsequential statement to restore peace.

There is no knowing whether the current hostilities will escalate, whether indeed, the crisis in Ukraine is a prelude to a third world war. The crisis arises amid a crisis of humanity. Implacable growth in poverty-levels across the globe and planetary breakdown of the environment, including the probability of increased, more virulent pandemics are real existential threats that face us in our lifetime. The New Unity Movement has always cherished the vision of a global society based on socialist principles, where the overriding concern would be caring for all, where the ruling sentiment would be "from each according to their means to each according to their needs." It is only through the global leadership of the world's working class that we are going to come close to realising such a vision.

Now, more than ever, the call "workers of the world unite" is relevant. The workers of Russia and Ukraine, supported by the workers of all the countries of Europe and the world, need to unite their forces and reject the power-play which threatens not only them but the world at large.

A luta continua.

National Executive Committee of the New Unity Movement

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