

## End the war immediately! Ceasefire now!

### Statement of the DGB Federal Committee on the Ukraine War

The DGB and its affiliated trade unions strongly condemn Russia's belligerent aggression on Ukraine. This war is an unprecedented attack on the European peace order based on freedom, human rights, self-determination and justice. Its main victims are the civilian population and many workers.

Together with the international trade union movement, we stand in solidarity with the courageous people in Ukraine. At the same time, our solidarity and respect go out to all the people in Russia who are being subjected to severe repressive measures by the regime because they courageously take to the streets and raise their voices against the war.

- We call on the Russian government to immediately stop the fighting, to agree to an immediate ceasefire to prevent any further escalation of the situation, and to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine by withdrawing its troops.
- All sides must now continue to work at full speed towards diplomatic solutions. This means first and foremost that the Russian side must be persuaded to end the war of aggression. The German government has a central role to play. Together with its EU partners, it is particularly challenged to find diplomatic solutions that end the war and open the perspective of a new pan-European architecture of peace and security.
- Hundreds of thousands of people are forced to leave Ukraine because of the war. For the DGB and its affiliates, now is the time to act in solidarity. We ourselves will provide accommodation and material support for these people who need to find shelter with us quickly. We will ensure that access to the labour market is open to them. We are in close contact with the international trade union movement to help our Ukrainian sister unions on the ground.

We also call on the European Union and its member states to offer comprehensive humanitarian assistance and protection to all refugees. The borders must remain open for them.

- The last few days teach us that there is no sign of voluntary compliance by the regime in Russia. That is why the DGB, and its member unions support the harsh economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the German government, the European Union and the Western allies.
- The adverse consequences of these sanctions will not leave us unscathed. In addition to disrupted supply chains, Germany's high dependence on Russian natural gas, coal and oil imports has proven to be particularly problematic. What is important now is to significantly reduce this dependence. It is necessary for the federal government to re-evaluate the energy policy framework and examine all options for a reliable energy supply. At the same time, the DGB and its member unions see it as the duty of the federal government to immediately ensure that the expected increase in energy prices is cushioned for consumers. Energy costs must also remain manageable for companies, especially those in energy-intensive industries. In order to guarantee security of supply in the longer term, stronger cooperation is needed in Europe. We trade unions will contribute with our own proposals.
- The German government was right to react quickly to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The permanent increase in the arms budget to meet NATO's two per cent target continues to be viewed critically by the DGB and its member unions. The urgently needed future investments in the socio-ecological transformation and in the efficiency of our welfare state must remain guaranteed.



- The DGB and its affiliated trade unions maintain that military peacekeeping must not be bought at the expense of social peace. The DGB and its affiliated trade unions continue to stand up for general and worldwide controlled disarmament, for the realisation and preservation of peace and freedom in the spirit of international understanding. The Federal Republic of Germany must work as a major player on a common European security architecture. We as trade unions also contribute to this through our transnational work. We must also continue to work on civilian strategies for peacekeeping and conflict prevention.