

A representative of NSW speaking at the Monument Rally – 12/03/2022

The Stop the War Coalition was founded in September 2001 after 9/11, when George W Bush announced his “War on Terror”. We are dedicated to preventing and ending all wars.

We protest against Racism, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and the abuse of Palestinian rights. We defend Civil Liberties.

Stop the War protested against the invasion of Afghanistan in which Ukraine participated. We were vindicated. We were right when we led millions in opposition to the illegal wars in Iraq and Libya - a catastrophic loss of lives and the destruction of societies. We oppose the devastating war in Yemen and our continuing arms sales to aggressive regimes like Saudi Arabia. If only our leaders would listen. We say: “no to war”.

And now we protest and totally condemn Putin’s illegal and barbaric invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to its people. We stand in solidarity with anti-war protesters in Russia and throughout the world to express our horror. We say, “not in our name”.

We are terrified about nuclear escalation. No Sadiq Khan, we can never be prepared for a nuclear attack.

Last year, Boris Johnson announced a 44% increase in UK nuclear warheads. We say no to nuclear weapons.

We fear the enforcement of a no-fly zone in Ukraine would be taken as an act of war by Russia leading to another World War. We say, “no to war”.

We fear our government’s jingoistic solutions. We don't trust Boris Johnson at home or abroad. Military solutions suggested by American presidents and British prime ministers have a habit of not working out.

We refuse to succumb to the witch-hunt that says criticising NATO means supporting Putin. We do fear NATO’s expansion eastward which ignores Russia's security concerns and inflames nationalistic and anti-western movements in Russia and elsewhere.

The NATO alliance of imperialist powers has a long history of occupying and bombing other countries, against international law, violating the sovereignty of Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, now threatening to encircle Russia. We are all implicated in these wars - where 90% of casualties are civilians - as we contribute over £500 per head per year to military expenditure through our taxes.

We say, “not in our name”.

Stop the War Coalition calls for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine, an end to provocative warlike rhetoric, and resumption of negotiations.

We say no to war - yes to peace.

We demand that Ukrainian refugees and those fleeing war are welcomed here.

We urge an end to NATO expansion.

We send our solidarity to all those calling for an end to war.

In war, truth is the first casualty. Calls for peace are the only thing you can believe in.

So, join the STW Coalition.