

*Berlin, November 16, 2022*

The Moment is NOW

## HELPING UKRAINE THROUGH THIS WINTER OF WAR

The infamy is still increasing. After Putin's plan to militarily disintegrate Ukraine and to annihilate it as an independent nation failed, because of the determined resistance, carried out by Ukrainian society as a whole, now the country is to be brought to its knees by destroying vital supply structures, especially the power supply.

The methods of a war of annihilation against the civilian population, tested in Chechnya and Syria, with Grozny and Aleppo as an example, are now being applied to a free Ukraine as a whole. The bombing of housing quarters, the targeted destruction of the living conditions of millions of people, the assassination of civilians, rapes and deportations, are already violations of the Genocide Convention of the United Nations.

Now, winter is coming. One can already see what it means when heating, light and electrical appliances aren't working anymore, when there is no drinking water, windows cannot be replaced, when cities are sinking into darkness, schools and kindergartens have to close, hospitals can't treat their patients and companies have to close down. Since the renewed Russian assault, already more than 14 million people had to leave their homes, millions more are to be forced to flee.

If Putin succeeded in causing the collapse of Ukraine, it could also destabilize the European security order, the European Union and the transatlantic alliance. No country within the former influence sphere of the Soviet Union would be safe anymore, it would give a boost to anti-democratic forces, and International Law would be in ruins.

For that reason, supporting the Ukrainian civilian and military resistance is not only a moral obligation, it is also in our very own interest.

### How can we contribute to Ukraine getting through this winter?

- ▶ **Everyone can donate for Ukraine.**
- ▶ **Humanitarian agencies can increase their support for Ukraine.**
- ▶ **Cities can provide bilateral support for Ukrainian partner cities.**
- ▶ **Companies can provide vital technical support, like generators, vehicles, building materials and fuel.**
- ▶ **The federal government and the EU need to increase their financial and military aid: Ukraine requires urgent emergency aid and, no less urgent, modern weapons to protect its cities and to push back the invading troops.**

On 10 December, we celebrate the International Human Rights Day, to honour the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on that day in 1948. These days, we are especially thinking about the people fighting for their dignity and their freedom in Ukraine and also in Iran. We want to follow up on the wave of solidarity that swept through our country after the beginning of the Russian invasion. Municipalities, the media, foundations, care organisations, companies, cultural institutes and hundreds of thousands of citizens have reacted to what appeared to be the unthinkable since the end of the Second World War. We need to revive this spirit of solidarity, regardless of all the hardships we are facing. Nothing would be more dangerous for Ukraine than a gradually increasing weariness of the Western public and politics.

Putin's catastrophic strategy may not bear fruits! The slogan „For our and for your freedom“, as quoted by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk, also applies the other way round:  
**„For your freedom and for ours!“**

## DONATIONS

should best be made to one of the existing initiatives or into the national donation fund UNITED24, established by Volodymyr Zelenskyy:

<https://u24.gov.ua/>

### Initial signatories:

Swetlana Alexijewitsch  
Aleida Assmann  
Jan Assmann  
Martin Aust  
Rüdiger Bachmann  
Gerhart Baum  
Marieluise Beck  
Christoph Becker  
Jan C. Behrends  
Pamela Biermann  
Wolf Biermann  
Marianne Birthler  
Helene v. Bismarck  
Werner Bohleber  
Christoph Buch  
Detlev Claussen  
Dany Cohn-Bendit  
Dan Diner  
Sabine Döring  
Tom Enders  
Benno Ennker  
Bianka Pietrow-Ennker  
Sabine Fischer  
Rüdiger v. Fritsch

Ralf Fücks  
Durs Grünbein  
Irene Hahn-Fuhr  
Rebecca Harms  
Andreas Heinemann-Grüder  
Ulrike Herrmann  
Richard Herzinger  
Christoph Heusgen  
Wolfgang Ischinger  
Andreas Kappeler  
Daniel Kehlmann  
Gerald Knaus  
Gerd Koenen  
John Kornblum  
Remko Leemhuis  
Claus Leggewie  
Anna Leszczynska  
Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger  
Marianne Leuzinger-Bohleber  
Renate Liesmann-Baum  
Wolf Lotter  
Carlo Masala  
Markus Meckel

Eva Menasse  
Herta Müller  
Jan Plamper  
Ruprecht Polenz  
Katharina Raabe  
Jens Reich  
Eva Reich  
Hedwig Richter  
Thomas Roth  
Manfred Sapper  
Gwendolyn Sasse  
Stefanie Schiffer  
Karl Schlögel  
Peter Schneider  
Bruno Schoch  
Ulrich Schreiber  
Richard Schröder  
Martin Schulze Wessel  
Linn Selle  
Constanze Stelzenmüller  
Sebastian Turner  
Andreas Umland  
Gert Weisskirchen  
Michael Zürn