

Russian invasion of Ukraine

This page contains information and advice about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Aotearoa New Zealand condemns, unequivocally, the unprovoked and illegal attack by Russia on Ukraine. Russia's actions are a grave breach of international law; the use of force to change borders is strictly prohibited under international law, as is the deliberate targeting of civilians.

Aotearoa New Zealand's support for Ukraine

We are assisting international efforts as the war continues and the humanitarian crisis worsens.

Military support

Aotearoa New Zealand is part of international efforts to support Ukraine to defend itself and dispel Russian forces from its sovereign territories. Our support includes the deployment of NZDF personnel and assets, and funding for equipment, material, and intelligence.

NZDF Personnel

- *Training*: supporting the United Kingdom-led operation to train Ukrainian armed forces in the UK
- *Intelligence*: intelligence personnel deployed in the UK, as well as New Zealand based open source intelligence staff
- *Logistics*: personnel deployed to a logistics hub in Europe to support the flow of aid and supplies to Ukraine.
- *Liaison*: liaison officers helping to engage with partners and coordinate efforts in the UK and Europe.
- *Command and administration support*: personnel deployed in Europe to assist the deployed throughout Europe helping with Ukraine's self-defence efforts.

Funding and equipment

- \$10.59 million to the NATO Trust Fund for Ukraine which provides fuel, military rations, communications and military first aid kits to support Ukraine.
- \$7.5 million to contribute to weapons and ammunition procurement through the United Kingdom
- \$4.1 million to support commercial satellite imagery access for the Ukrainian Defence Intelligence.

We are also making available to the Ukraine armed forces a range of non-lethal defence equipment at their request. For more detailed information about our military support to Ukraine, please see the press releases in the Speeches, statements and press releases section on this webpage.

5th humanitarian and economic assistance

Aotearoa New Zealand has committed almost \$13 million in humanitarian assistance to address the humanitarian consequences of Russia's illegal war of aggression in Ukraine. This includes:

- An initial \$2 million for humanitarian aid to help deliver essential humanitarian assistance, with a focus on supporting health facilities and meeting basic needs
- \$2 million to the United Nations' Ukraine Humanitarian Fund to provide healthcare, food aid, clean water, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for millions of people inside Ukraine.
- \$2 million to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to assist the millions of Ukrainians fleeing to neighbouring countries.
- \$1.93 million for [New Zealand Disaster Response Partnership](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/vn/aid-and-development/working-with-the-aid-programme/funding-opportunities/nz-disaster-response-partnership/?msclkid=14791daecf2811ec8f2c99a2195b47ed) NGOs to support refugees in Ukraine's neighbouring countries.
- \$1.85 million to the World Food Programme to help address global food insecurity, exacerbated by the crisis in Ukraine.
- \$3 million through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support Ukrainians with basic humanitarian needs as they face severe hardships over the winter.

New Zealand also provides annual funding to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, which has announced it has allocated \$60 million to help humanitarian agencies scale up their Ukraine response.

Diplomatic assistance and international legal accountability

From the outset of the invasion, Aotearoa New Zealand has repeatedly called for President Putin to act consistently with international obligations and cease Russia's military operations in Ukraine.

New Zealand's Parliament passed a unanimous motion in the House on 1 March condemning Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

On 14 December 2022, President Zelenskyy addressed the New Zealand Parliament. He was only the second leader to ever do so – a testament to the strong, unified support for Ukraine in New Zealand.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has spoken with both Ukraine's President and Prime Minister to reiterate New Zealand's strong support for Ukraine and its people.

The Prime Minister and Ministers have made numerous public statements unequivocally condemning the actions of President Putin and calling for the invasion to end.

Aotearoa New Zealand has made clear our condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine through national statements in all regional and international forums where we are active. At the United Nations, we have:

- Co-sponsored a UN Security Council Resolution on 25 February condemning Russia's invasion (vetoed by Russia)
- Co-sponsored a UN General Assembly Resolution on 2 March condemning Russia's invasion, which attracted 141 votes in favour, and only 5 votes against
- Co-sponsored Ukraine's successful resolution at the Human Rights Council establishing a Commission of Inquiry to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law.
- Co-sponsored a UN General Assembly Resolution on 12 October condemning Russia's sham referenda and illegal "annexation" of regions in southern and eastern Ukraine, which attracted 143 votes in favour, and only 5 votes against.

Aotearoa New Zealand has supported efforts to investigate, and hold those responsible to account for, any breaches of International Law and International Humanitarian Law. Our actions include:

- Alongside over 40 other countries, referring the atrocities that appear to have occurred in Ukraine to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court which will enable an investigation into possible war crimes
- Intervening as a third party in Ukraine's case against Russia in the International Court of Justice.
- Providing \$1.315 million to the International Criminal Court to support the investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine
- The secondment of a senior NZDF military officer to the ICC to support the ICC's investigation.
- \$1 million to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to support monitoring and accountability for human rights violations being perpetrated in Ukraine.

Aotearoa New Zealand's actions against Russia

Aotearoa New Zealand has taken swift action in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, aligned with the actions of the international community.

Sanctions and economic actions

New Zealand has put in place sanctions on individuals and entities as part of our response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. For detailed information and advice, see the [Russia Sanctions page](#) [en/countries-and-regions/europe/ukraine/russian-invasion-of-ukraine/sanctions/].

Russia - New Zealand relations

- Our relations with Russia have deteriorated significantly following President Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.
- We continue to call on President Putin's regime to return to diplomatic negotiations as a pathway to resolve this conflict; for that to occur, diplomatic channels must remain open.
- We have made our position on President Putin's unjustified invasion very clear. We have done so directly to the Russian Government, including through the Russian Ambassador in Wellington and through our own Ambassador in Moscow.
- Our ability to continue to do this, whenever necessary, is of critical importance.
- If we expel the Russian Ambassador, we could anticipate that there would be a reciprocal action to our Embassy in Moscow.
- Our Embassy in Moscow provides a critical point of support for New Zealanders in Russia, and in those countries to which our Embassy is accredited to. We would not lightly take any action that could result in us providing reduced support to New Zealanders there.
- That said, we will continue to keep further potential diplomatic steps that we might take in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine under consideration.



Advice for New Zealanders who want to help

The best thing New Zealanders can do to help the people of Ukraine is to donate to an emergency appeal launched by an experienced and trustworthy humanitarian organisation working on the ground. These organisations are skilled at assessing what's needed and how to get it there. They will source supplies from close to the affected area, which is the most effective way of getting help to those who need it. A number of New Zealand organisations are running appeals and supporting the work on the ground in Ukraine.