**Motion: Objection to the 'Stop the War in Ukraine' motion passed at UCU Congress 2023**

Branch notes:

On 27 May 2023, the UCU Congress in Glasgow passed two contradictory motions on Russia’s war in Ukraine ([https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12945/Business-of-the-strategy-and-finance-committee-open-session#5-composite-stop-the-war-in-ukraine--peace-now](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ucu.org.uk%2Farticle%2F12945%2FBusiness-of-the-strategy-and-finance-committee-open-session%235-composite-stop-the-war-in-ukraine--peace-now&data=05%7C01%7CPavlushT%40cardiff.ac.uk%7C55c08812a0de4e004cfd08db6285bd5a%7Cbdb74b3095684856bdbf06759778fcbc%7C1%7C0%7C638212098780164682%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NmPaTn%2FLAdjZPvn1%2BAt4iP1jhsxV1R%2BBF12wUOcXKss%3D&reserved=0))

* Motion 5, which was approved, states that ‘Ukraine has become a battleground for Russian and US imperialism,’ that the President of Ukraine wants Ukraine to become an ‘illiberal outpost of US imperialism,’ like a ‘big Israel,’ and that the UCU position on the war is to call for Russia to withdraw its troops ‘and for [the United Kingdom] government to stop arming Ukraine’
* Motion 6, which was also approved, condemns ‘Russia’s invasion of Ukraine’ and recognises ‘Ukraine’s right to self-determination’

Congress’s decision to carry motion 5 has provoked protests by regional experts and resignations by UCU members. Motion 5 reiterates the current Russian leadership’s framing of Russia’s unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine as a conflict between Russia and the USA, with NATO treated as a mere instrument of US foreign policy. (see [http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67843](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fen.kremlin.ru%2Fevents%2Fpresident%2Fnews%2F67843&data=05%7C01%7CPavlushT%40cardiff.ac.uk%7C55c08812a0de4e004cfd08db6285bd5a%7Cbdb74b3095684856bdbf06759778fcbc%7C1%7C0%7C638212098780164682%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dRubmoAMPuAUuwdq04e%2Bt6LA4KivdXQTNWcIidZW6QQ%3D&reserved=0)). The motion relegates Ukraine to the position of US tool and suggests that the conflict can be resolved by de-escalation on the part of both Russia and those NATO members who are providing Ukraine with military support.

Motion 5 dilutes Russia’s responsibility for this war and betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of its origins. Most seriously of all, it calls for an end to British miliary support for Ukraine.

Motion 5 is not ‘anti-war,’ nor is opposition to it ‘pro-war.’ In view of the importance of foreign military aid to Ukraine’s ability to defend its people and its territorial integrity, and in view of the horrific and well-documented crimes against Ukrainian civilians since February 2022, we consider motion 5 to be a call to abandon the people of Ukraine to a terrible fate.

Branch resolves:

* To reject Motion 5 and publicly distance Cardiff UCU from the resolution.
* To affirm Cardiff UCU's support for the people of Ukraine and members of UCU from Ukraine.
* To add its voice to those insisting on the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and weapons from all pre-2014 Ukrainian territory.

Motion proposed by UCU members from the Central and East European Research Centre at Cardiff University:

(In alphabetical order):

David Clarke, *Professor of Modern German History*

Maja Davidovic, *Lecturer in International Relations*

Jaclyn Granick, *Senior Lecturer in Modern Jewish History*

Mary Heimann, *Professor of Modern European (Czechoslovak) History*

Thom Loyd, *Lecturer in Russian History*

Tetyana Pavlush, *Lecturer in Modern European (German) History*

James Ryan, *Senior Lecturer in Modern European (Russian) History*

Gerwin Strobl, *Reader in (German) History*