

Lay down your arms! Peace logic instead of war logic!

Appeal against the Ukraine war and for demonstrations for peace and disarmament.

NatWiss condemns Russia's attack against Ukraine, which is unjustifiable and violates the rules of international law, with incalculable victims and damages. At the same time, we do not forget that in the run-up to the war, warnings and suggestions were ignored, principles of war prevention and peacekeeping were disregarded. The knowledge about causes of war and peace solutions must be used to stop the acts of war and to avoid further spirals of escalation. Therefore, we demonstrate for peace and against all militarism!

In this war, everyone stands to lose, no matter who declares themselves the "victor" on the rubble and graves. The main victims are the people of Ukraine, the dead, the wounded and those fleeing. The consequences also affect the people of Russia and people all over the world. The international law loses, the European peace order and civil society. The damages and costs of war destroy the conditions for sustainable peace and the solution of global problems: Poverty and hunger, displacement and flight, environmental destruction and climate change. A nuclear war would be the end of humanity: No Future!

Sacrificed is also the truth. War propaganda dominates on all sides. The overheated echo chamber of war indignation erases earlier knowledge that is needed for the future. Hardly any questions are asked about how the catastrophe came about, who drove the spiral of escalation for decades. Is it just Putin, who has been declared a demon, or also NATO, which after winning the Cold War expanded across all borders to the brink of war? Those who have undermined peace with rearmament and military interventions, and who have even broken international law, are bad advisors for peaceful solutions. Driven by the arms industry that earns money from war, these forces have long been pushing for a "turning point" in geopolitical power struggles and a further rearming of NATO, making the world more insecure. With the start of the war, the German government doubled its military spending, which had risen sharply in recent years, and now exceeds that of Russia alone before the war. Fighting weapons with even more weapons is no more sustainable than countering climate change with air conditioning.

In the face of oblivion, it is the duty of science to activate knowledge about war and peace in order to end the Ukraine war and prevent further wars:

1. We say no to economic wars, arms deliveries and military actions that have fuelled the spiral of escalation before and during this war, and we reject sanctions that affect populations worldwide.
2. We support humanitarian aid for refugees and victims of violence, as well as the development of links with civil society and the peace movement in Russia and Ukraine to mobilise movements to end the war.
3. We oppose the attempts to push for total war in all areas of society and to support authoritarian structures of militarism, obedience to war and prohibitions of thought, with civil society and its civil principles for human coexistence and conflict resolution.
4. It is the forces pushing for war that belong in the dock, not the peace forces who have been shouting "Lay down your arms!" and warning against war since Bertha von Suttner, more urgently than ever.
5. The logic of war must be replaced by the logic of peace: de-escalation, diplomacy, immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of weapons, negotiation and mediation between the parties to the conflict, protection and strengthening of international law, creation of a European and global peace architecture including Russia and China.
6. Instead of a turning point for weapons and war, the world needs a turning point for disarmament and peace, for common security in the house of Europe, for sustainability and the solution of the global problems on our planet.

We call for joint demonstrations for these goals.

Natural Scientists' Initiative Responsibility for Peace and Sustainability (NatWiss)