

# **About Us, Our Activities, & Our Manifesto**

Solidarity Collectives

2023

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## About the Solidarity Collectives

We, the Solidarity Collectives, are a group of Ukrainian anarchists who have united since the beginning of the Russian invasion to support our military comrades at the front and to help those affected by the Russian invasion.

Our main goal is to provide the soldiers who have gone to the front with all the necessary equipment to increase their safety and effectiveness in resisting the Russian imperial invasion. Currently, we are supporting about a hundred anti-authoritarians. Since the beginning of the war, we have already managed to deliver 5 vehicles, 20 helmets, 30 armour, 50 first aid kits, 5 drones, 30 radios, 100+ sets of clothing, sights, equipment, active headphones and much, much more.

The soldiers we support are activists of various movements: anarchists, human rights activists, trade unionists, eco-anarchists, anarcho-feminists, punk rockers, political refugees from Belarus and Russia, etc. Many of them might not have agreed with each other's goals and ideas before the war. However, they were united by a common enemy, because the Russian imperial machine will not allow any of us to exist. We will remain united until the end of the war, until the last occupier leaves the territory of independent Ukraine.

Our struggle is a struggle against colonial imperial politics, where the world order is dictated by whoever has the most weapons and oil deposits. We are fighting against false propaganda and hypocritical geopolitical compromises. We are fighting for a world order in which people choose their own path and development, and do not submit to the power of dictators.

We are grateful for the help of all those who have not stayed away from our struggle. But the war continues, and every day we receive new requests for help from our soldiers, from socks to reconnaissance UAVs. So please support our resistance movement, a movement that has united people from all over the world, because we really need your help.

## Manifesto

“Solidarity Collectives” (former “Operation Solidarity”) is an anti-authoritarian volunteer network formed before the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine to help comrades on the frontline and civilians affected by the war. “Collectives” isn't merely a name but the essence of our initiative which was joined by various organizations and groups from Ukraine, Germany, Poland, France, US, Netherlands, Canada, and many other countries.

Based on our anti-authoritarian values, we decided to actively resist Russian aggression. We support the right of the Ukrainian people to self-defense and consider the Russian invasion an imperialist act. Despite the multidimensionality of any global event, the key reasons for this war are the imperial policy of the Russian Federation, the belief in the historical mission of the Russian elites, and an attempt to establish control over what they think is their sphere of influence. The reasons should not be sought neither in the economic interests of the Russian oligarchy nor in “Russian security precautions”, and especially not in NATO's scheming. Full support of the Ukrainian people in their struggle (which doesn't necessarily mean supporting the government's policies) is the only consistent stance for anarchists and leftists worldwide.

Ukrainians wage an armed struggle against Russia because there is no other way of effective resistance now. Classic pacifist recipes don't work here because the sides of the conflict

aren't equal. If the Russian army surrenders, the war will end. If Ukrainian soldiers lay down their weapons or "turn them against their government", as some 'experts on Ukraine' suggest, the Russian army will occupy more territories and commit more war crimes. Both solutions are equally unrealistic though. And reality requires practical answers and specific actions.

On a big scale, Ukraine has no choice other than to defend itself with weapons. However, on the individual level, many Ukrainian men and women, including our comrades, joined armed units voluntarily and consciously.

So what do we do? We've created a volunteer team of very different people and initiatives, managing to maintain its work despite crises and reformatting. We've established a logistics network and strong partnerships with many anarchist and left-wing initiatives in Europe and beyond. Domestically, we cooperate with anti-authoritarian groups, labor unions, local activists, and institutions in areas near the frontline.

But our main achievement is an incredible amount of equipment and other essentials delivered to our fighters at the frontline.

Currently, "Solidarity Collectives" have three main areas of work: military, humanitarian, and media. We work daily collecting fighters' needs, making purchases in Ukraine and abroad, organizing humanitarian trips to war-affected regions, communicating with friendly initiatives, and publishing the results of our work. For many, this is the most important part of our lives now.

Practice is one of our founding principles. We came together to help the Ukrainian resistance fight off Russian aggression. But we aren't just *against* something, we also stand *for*. Our goal is a free and just society, our main values are social, economic, and gender equality.

- We believe that the Ukrainian reconstruction which politicians and diplomats already discuss should benefit the people. It shouldn't be based on neoliberal dogmas that the authors of the reconstruction plan are trying to include there.
- We think feminism today should be based on a proactive position. Now, female activists of the anti-authoritarian movement bravely fight the aggressor, head military units, and provide medical aid on the battlefield. Also, most of the 'Solidarity Collectives' members are women, and they do most of the work in the military direction
- We support anti-authoritarian and anti-colonial movements around the world. Today, anti-authoritarian activists in Ukraine acquire experience which might be useful to topple dictators and authoritarian regimes both in post-soviet countries and other regions (Iran, for instance).
- We support animal rights movements and fight against climate change. We pass vegan food to vegan fighters and advocate for the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. It's not just about preventing climate disasters in the distant future but also about reducing the dependency on the resource-oriented Russian economy.

Our goals are incompatible with Putin's authoritarian regime. But we're ready to fight for them in post-war Ukraine too opposing authoritarian tendencies in our society.

We're grateful for the support to everyone who's been working with us through all these months. To those who help raise money, transfer vehicles, organize public events, or come to Ukraine with humanitarian aid. Today, we feel the strength of international solidarity which is

capable to do great things, despite the international left's split on the 'Ukrainian question'. We realize this solidarity isn't easy but we call for you not to give in to the war weariness, especially now when your support is crucial to us.

We are also ready for open dialogue with those who still hesitate but are ready to hear the position of the Ukrainian anti-authoritarian community. We want to see you on our side of the barricades!

Meanwhile, our work continues. No rest 'till the last dictator dies.

## **Our Activities**

**MILITARY FRONT** From the onset of the war, our primary task has been to provide the anti-authoritarian activists who joined military units with everything they needed. Thanks to donations, we purchased and handed over a hundred bulletproof vests (4<sup>th</sup> protection standard), dozens of helmets, night vision devices, thermal imagers, rangefinders, drones, tactical medicine, military uniforms, shoes, clothes and much more – both special and everyday equipment. Today, Solidarity Collectives regularly supports up to 150 fighters, many of whom are on the front lines.

**HUMANITARIAN FRONT** Thanks to the logistics network we built that includes 4 warehouses and cars, we have been receiving and transporting humanitarian aid to where it is most needed since the beginning of the war. To date, we have organized our own humanitarian convoys or delivered cargo to Bucha, Bilohorodka, Chernihiv, Kryvyi Rih, Mykolaiv, Kramatorsk, Malyna, Kharkiv and other cities. These transports consist of medicines, clothes, food, sleeping bags and mattresses, gas bottles with cylinders, and electronic equipment.

**MEDIA** People discuss the "Ukrainian question" all over the world. Explaining why all anti-authoritarian forces, despite everything, should support the Ukrainian resistance movement is our primary task today. Therefore, we are always ready to take part in conferences, debates or share our vision with journalists.

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