

RAZOM POLICY PLATFORM ON A RUSSIA-UKRAINE DEAL

Americans and Ukrainians alike agree with President Donald Trump that Russia's invasion of Ukraine must end. But the way that Russia's war ends matters. To ensure the war does not resume once Russia has a chance to rearm, we must fight for an enduring peace that delivers justice and security for Ukrainians and holds Russian war criminals accountable.

If Ukraine were to concede to Moscow's demands in full, the war would not end; Russia's long-standing aim of dominating Ukraine would continue. Conversely, if Russia accepted Ukraine's basic conditions, the foundations for a lasting peace could be laid: the aggressor state would be constrained, the victim state secured, and the causes of renewed violence diminished.

As Ukraine and the United States work toward a shared framework for pressuring Russia to negotiate seriously, several core issues remain unresolved. Razom for Ukraine advocates that the United States should incorporate the following positions into its framework.

SECURITY GUARANTEES Russia's goal of conquering all of Ukraine has not changed.

Any pause in fighting will give Moscow time to rearm and reconstitute its military. Therefore, a future re-invasion must be deterred and, if deterrence fails, repelled swiftly and decisively.

1. The United States should provide Ukraine with sufficient military capabilities to deter a renewed Russian assault and, if necessary, defeat it with decisive force.
2. Congress should ratify a mutual-defense treaty with Ukraine, giving Ukrainians the confidence they need to agree to a peace agreement and ensuring such an agreement also benefits Americans. By pledging to come to Ukraine's defense, the United States will guarantee that a peace agreement endures while unlocking the military, economic, and technological benefits of an alliance with Ukraine. Such an agreement would have broad bipartisan support in the United States Congress.
3. The United States should establish a snap-back mechanism that restores sanctions on Russia if Russia violates the terms of a peace agreement.
4. The United States should not support a ban on Ukraine's ability to invite foreign military forces to operate on its territory. The United States should participate in European-led operations to guarantee Ukraine's security and sovereignty.
5. The United States must not pressure Ukraine to limit the size of its armed forces. If Ukraine chooses to limit its armed forces as part of a peace agreement, Russia, as the aggressor, should be forced to reduce its military in proportion with such limits.
6. Whether or not Ukrainians choose to pursue NATO membership, the United States should not ban it from joining. No framework should restrict Ukraine's sovereign right to pursue NATO membership or closer integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. Russia's demand for control over NATO's membership must be rejected.

TERRITORY Ukraine's sovereign borders were decided in 1991 when overwhelming majorities of people, including majorities in Crimea and eastern and southern regions such as Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk, freely voted for independence from Moscow.

- 7.** The United States must reaffirm its policy of non-recognition of Russia's occupation of territory within Ukraine's 1991 borders, as President Trump did in 2018.
- 8.** The United States must not pressure Ukraine to take any actions that would legitimize or legally recognize the temporary occupation of Ukrainian territory by Russia.
- 9.** The United States must not pressure Ukraine to waive its sovereign right to attempt to liberate its territory and people through military means, should it choose to do so.
- 10.** Any peace agreement must ensure that Ukrainians in occupied territories have freedom of movement. An end to the war cannot sacrifice the millions of Ukrainians, including over 1.6 million children, currently trapped under occupation.

RETURN OF CAPTURED UKRAINIANS

- 11.** All Ukrainian children abducted by Russia must be returned.
- 12.** All Ukrainian civilian detainees and prisoners of war must be released from Russian captivity, including those held in occupied Ukrainian territory.

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 13.** Russia cannot be granted amnesty for the war crimes it has committed against Ukraine.
- 14.** Russia must ultimately be held accountable.

ASSETS AND RECONSTRUCTION

Russia's war has inflicted more than \$524 billion in damage to Ukraine, according to the World Bank in February 2025, with some estimates reaching into the trillions.

- 15.** Russian state assets currently frozen in Europe, Asia, and North America should be transferred to Ukraine as compensation and to support reconstruction and recovery. Under international law, Russia bears responsibility for compensating Ukraine for the harm and losses caused by its aggression. Any settlement involving these assets must uphold the principle that the aggressor pays.
- 16.** Long-term economic partnerships should support Ukraine's integration with European and global markets. The United States and Ukraine should expand educational, scientific, technological, and cultural exchange programs that strengthen Ukraine's resilience and American innovation. Joint efforts in defense production should strengthen Ukraine's ability to defend itself, as well as its energy security, nuclear safety, and critical infrastructure.

CULTURAL AUTONOMY

- 17.** The United States should not pressure Ukraine to adopt Russian or any other language as an official language of Ukraine. After fighting for the right to speak their own language, Ukrainians should be free to protect their cultural identity while respecting other languages, such as Russian and Crimean Tatar, in line with European standards.
- 18.** In defense of linguistic and religious minorities, the United States should press Russia to end restrictions on the Ukrainian language in Russia and in occupied territories, and to grant full legal standing to independent religious communities, including Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox churches unaffiliated with the Moscow Patriarchate.