



## **WE MUST NOT FORGET THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE**

*Submitted by DSU Denmark*

The TV-cameras have turned away and the media coverage have fallen silent. But despite the lack of interest from the West the conflict in Ukraine is still ongoing.

### **UN peacekeeping forces are needed to enforce the pierced ceasefire agreement**

There seems to be no easy solution in sight and the conflict seems frozen. The contact line has not moved since December 2016, and yet the OSCE reports of violations to the ceasefire almost on a daily basis.

Last weekend 4 was reported killed and 7 wounded in action at different locations along the contact line in Eastern Ukraine. Too few for the Western media to care about, but enough to leave a country at war with immense internal problems and, sadly, with no imminent solution to the conflict in sight.

Since YES is a pacifist organization we see no need for the EU, NATO or other parties to escalate the military situation. Furthermore, we understand the delicate situation in Eastern Ukraine.

However, the European society cannot remain silent as we watch the ceasefire being violated on a daily basis.

To stop the violations of the ceasefire:

- YES urges the UN to send peacekeeping forces to the grey zone along the contact line in Eastern Ukraine.
- YES urges the European Parliament and our mother parties all over Europe to bring this pledges forward.

### **Strong need to improve and uphold legal rights for internally displaced persons**

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimates that the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) reached 1.4 million people in August 2015 - a number that have grown with a 109.000 new IDPs during 2016<sup>1</sup>. The high number of IDPs underlines the grave state that both local communities and the central government find itself in. In many municipalities, there are neither enough housing nor enough jobs and let alone the economic possibilities to create either. The situation creates tensions between newcomers and IDPs as seen in other places of the world when great amounts of refugees arrive to unprepared societies.

Besides the lack of housing and job opportunities IDPs are deprived of basic rights such as their electoral right. Moreover, they must undergo a hideous registration and verification process which includes waiting at home during working hours for a verification visit from the officials to gain the IDP rights. This makes it incredible difficult to uphold a job and verify your status as IDP at the same time.

Concerning the IDPs in Ukraine:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.internal-displacement.org/europe-the-caucasus-and-central-asia/ukraine/figures-analysis>  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2017/20170522-GRID.pdf>



- YES strongly condemns the current treatment of IDPs especially the violations of their human rights.
- YES urges the Ukrainian government to make fast improvements in legislation to solve this issue.
- YES urges the European Parliament and our mother parties all over Europe to put pressure on the Ukrainian government to solve this issue and to support NGOs and civil society agents who work in this field

### **The reform process in Kiev: Too little too late**

YES welcomes the new visa free regime between Ukraine and the European Union. It is a great improvement for the Ukrainian people, a great possibility for interpersonal cooperation and exchange across borders and a step towards closer cooperation and integration of Ukraine in the European Union.

But a visa free regime is not enough. There are still substantial anti-corruption and democratizing reforms which need to be implemented not to mention the need of social and economic reforms to create jobs, growth and greater social security in the country.

To create a more free, equal and prosperous Ukraine:

- YES urges president Poroshenko to speed up the reform process and deliver on the promises from the Euro-Maidan
- YES urges the European Parliament to increase the pressure on the president and government on the issues of needed reforms in Ukraine

*When this resolution is adopted, the bureau meeting commit both presidium and bureau members to bring the issues and pledges to their mother parties and members of the European Parliament and for the leadership of YES to raise these issues with relevant bodies at the European level.*

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