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Support deserters and conscientious objectors from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Donations will be used exclusively for the work with deserters and conscientious objectors and thus, finance the areas of work described in this flyer. For this purpose, we have set up a separate donation account:

IBAN DE47 5055 0020 0006 0853 77, Sparkasse Offenbach, BIC HELADEF10FF

You can also donate online via <https://en.connection-ev.org/StopWarUkraineDonations-form>

Donations in Germany are tax-deductible. For a donation receipt, please provide us with your address. Thank you for your support.

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For more information, see: www.objectwarcampaign.org

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#OBJECT WAR CAMPAIGN



Russia

Belarus

Ukraine

#ОткажиВойне #ВідмовВійні

Solidarity with all those who object to war

Deserters and Conscientious Objectors from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine need our support.

Russian conscientious objectors are usually rejected in asylum proceedings, and in Ukraine, conscientious objectors are sentenced to long prison terms. More than 100 organizations from over 20 countries show their solidarity and stand up for these people. Regarding the war in Ukraine, they demand: protection and asylum for conscientious objectors and deserters from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The human right to conscientious objection must also be recognized in times of war.

Our work

September 2023

Information and counseling: We answer questions from affected conscientious objectors and deserters via our Telegram channel and service hotline: Connection e.V. на русском: t.me/connection_ev, eMail: get.out.now@gmx.de, Phone: +49 157 824 702 51 in Russian, English, and German.

European network: With contacts in Finland, Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, and many Western European countries, we have been able to build up a transnational network. We aim to counsel and support those affected so that they can receive protection and asylum abroad and develop a new perspective.

Next action week #ObjectWarCampaign in December 2023: On International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2023, 30 organizations call for actions and events. They demand open borders, protection, and asylum for conscientious objectors and deserters. Join in! Find more information on our campaign website:

<https://objectwarcampaign.org>

Financial support: We support the groups of our European network, especially from countries involved in the war, assisting conscientious objectors and deserters. For example, the project „NO means NO“ by the Belarusian organization Nash Dom, the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, the Movement for Conscientious Objection in Russia, and the association act4transformation, which runs a counseling center in Georgia.

We work closely together with our **European partner organizations** to assist people in the search of protection in the EU and to support activists and human rights defenders from our network. We exchange knowledge, resources and share best practice examples.

Thank you to all who have participated in the fundraising campaign. So far, 200,000 € have been collected for this purpose. We have already spent about 160,000 €, mainly to support the groups of our network and secure their work long term. We would also like to thank PRO ASYL for sponsoring the project.

„I do not understand how you can go to Ukraine to become a murderer and have blood on your hands.“

Maxim from Russia

For more information:



<https://objectwarcampaign.org>

Conscientious Objection in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

The three countries have different regulations on conscription, the right to conscientious objection, military draft evasion and desertion. Russia and Belarus do not comply with international regulations. Ukraine suspended the right to conscientious objection when the war began.

In **Russia** and **Belarus**, applying for conscientious objection is only possible until conscription. There is no right to conscientious objection for reservists and soldiers, not even for those who are affected by mobilization.

Forced recruitment is taking place in the **separatist areas**. There is no right to conscientious objection. Conscientious objectors are sent to war or are imprisoned.

Ukraine has already sentenced some conscientious objectors to several years in prison.

It is precisely in the event of war that the human right to conscientious objection is a precious good and must be guaranteed. No one may be forced to serve in the military against their conviction.

In the first year of the war, hundreds of thousands of people on all sides evaded military service. Russian and Belarusian conscientious objectors fled mainly to Kazakhstan, Georgia or Armenia while Ukrainian conscientious objectors have often left for countries of the European Union.

„When war is looming, it is better to drop everything.“
Igor from Belarus

Asylum in case of conscientious objection and desertion

More and more people from Russia and Belarus do not want to participate in the war against Ukraine, which is against international law. There are conscientious objectors in Ukraine, too. What happens when they apply for asylum in Europe? The principle of jurisprudence is that prosecution and punishment for a refusal is still classified as legitimate state action. Anyone who is threatened with prosecution solely for this reason will not be granted asylum.

Germany had promised that Russian deserters would receive refugee protection. In France, the National Court of Asylum clarified that Russian objectors must provide evidence that they are called up. In Lithuania, applications of Belarusian deserters were rejected because they would pose a “threat to state security”. In a lot of other cases, objectors got negative decisions if they couldn’t show that they were called up. Anyone who evaded recruitment at an early stage is considered to have withdrawn from military service. It is obvious that the commitments made are completely inadequate.

„For me, the most important thing is that people do not die.“

Alexej from Ukraine

In Ukraine, too, there are conscientious objectors who do not want to take part in the fighting. For all of them, the human right to conscientious objection, as established

by the European Court of Human Rights in 2011, must be guaranteed. If this right is violated, they must be protected as refugees. The humanitarian residence permit currently granted on a temporary basis does not equal permanent protection.