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#OBJECT WAR CAMPAIGN

#ОтпорВойне
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Call for donations

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, SWIFT 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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More information: www.objectwarcampaign.org/en
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#OBJECT WAR CAMPAIGN



Russia

Belarus

Ukraine

#ОткажиВойне
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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. In Ukraine, conscientious objectors are persecuted and at risk of prison terms. More than 120 organizations from over 20 countries express their solidarity and support for these people. Regarding the war in Ukraine, they call for protection and asylum for conscientious objectors and deserters from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The human right to conscientious objection to military service is to be also recognized in times of war.

Our work

September 2024

Europeanwide network for information and counseling:

All over Europe there are organizations to support conscientious objectors and deserters from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Connection e.V. runs the Russian language Telegram channel на русском: t.me/connection_ev. Further contacts are available in Finland, Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, and many Western European countries. We aim to counsel and offer support also from a legal perspective so that those affected can receive protection and asylum abroad and develop a new perspective. Additional details and contacts are available at: www.objectwarcampaign.org/contacts.

#ObjectWarCampaign action weeks: Every half a year, the network calls for joint action weeks: on International Human Rights Day, December 10, and on the International Day of Conscientious Objection,

„I never wanted to be part of the war.“

Nikolai from Russia

May 15. Please join in! More information are available on the campaign website:

<https://objectwarcampaign.org/en>

Financial support: We support groups within our European network, especially those from countries involved in the war, who assist 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, Idite Lesom and the association act4transformation, which runs a counseling center in Georgia.

We cooperate closely with **European partner organizations** to assist people seeking for protection in the EU and to support activists and human rights defenders in our network. We exchange knowledge, resources and best practices.

Thank you to all who have participated in the fundraising campaign till now. So far, 350,000 Euro have been collected for this purpose. We have already spent about 300,000 Euro, mainly to support the groups in our network and secure their long term work.

Visit the dedicated website:



www.objectwarcampaign.org/en

„There must be people who are committed to peace.“

Andrii from Ukraine

Conscientious Objection in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

These three countries have different regulations on conscription, the right to conscientious objection, military draft evasion and desertion. Forced recruitment is widespread in all countries including the occupied areas. Russia and Belarus do not comply with international standards. Ukraine suspended de facto the right to conscientious objection in 2022.

In **Russia** and **Belarus**, it is possible to apply for conscientious objection only before being conscripted. There is no right to conscientious objection for reservists and soldiers, not even for those who are affected by mobilization.

In **occupied areas**, 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 becomes a vital and essential right to protect and it should be guaranteed. No one should be forced to serve in the military against his/her own 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. Ukrainian conscientious objectors have often left - despite the ban on leaving the country imposed on all males age 18-60 - for countries of the European Union. Today we register asylum applications by Russian and Belarusian conscientious objectors in European countries as well.

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

Igor from Belarus

Asylum in case of conscientious objection and desertion

Many 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.

The German government promised that Russian deserters would receive refugee protection. In France, the National Court of Asylum clarified that Russian objectors must provide evidence that they have been called up. In Lithuania, applications of Belarusian deserters are rejected because they would pose a “threat to state security“. In many other cases, objectors receive negative decisions if they cannot show that they have been called up. Anyone who evaded recruitment at an early stage is considered as having withdrawn from military service. It is obvious that current protection mechanisms are completely inadequate. For instance, the humanitarian residence permit currently granted on a temporary basis to Ukrainians does not equal permanent protection.

For all conscientious objectors - wherever they come from - the human right to conscientious objection, as established by the European Court of Human Rights in 2011, must be guaranteed. Furthermore, as UNHCR states in its Guidelines on International Protection No. 10, conscientious objectors are eligible for refugee status if they are at risk of persecution in their country of origin.