

Journalists Invited to the Second Congress of Antiwar, Civil, and Humanitarian Initiatives in Brussels

November 27, Brussels – The Second Congress of Antiwar, Civil, and Humanitarian Initiatives will take place in Brussels, gathering approximately 250 delegates representing various Russian antiwar movements, alongside partners from the European Union, Ukraine, and other countries.

The first Congress was held last year in Berlin and became one of the most diverse and balanced representations of the Antiwar movements since the beginning of the full-scale war against Ukraine. This year Congress will once again be a space for open dialogue and collaboration on a range of relevant topics concerning Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and the state of Russian civil society at home and in exile. These discussions are of utmost importance in the current political climate. You will find the detailed program below.

The congress participants will work on the following topics:

- Strategy of resistance in Russia: transformation and democratization
- What can Russian civil society do to support Ukraine?
- Human rights in the dictatorship
- Cooperation between the EU and the Russian democratic forces: do we need a united opposition?
- Russian civil society inside Russia: how to keep cooperating?
- 1,5 years of Russian political relocation in the EU: what can be done to improve the transit process for future new arrivals
- Bringing abducted Ukrainian children, refugees and prisoners of war from Russia back to Ukraine
- Supporting the Anti-War Initiatives: opportunities and priorities

Who are we?

This Congress is initiated by the Platform for Civil, Antiwar, and Humanitarian Initiatives, a horizontal association uniting more than 80 initiatives and around 40 individual activists. The main goals of this community are to oppose Russian aggression and to seek opportunities for the strengthening civil society of Russia. For more information about the Platform, please visit antiwar.in

The Second Congress is organised by Austausch e.V. (Germany), CISR e.V. (Germany) and the EU Public Diplomacy – Russia project (Brussels) with support from the European Union and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

What's in Store for Journalists:

The congress is one of the main events of Russian civic anti-war movements, which means that it will gather the most significant number of activists, researchers, public intellectuals, and politicians who are directly involved in the democratization of Russia and the issues of the war in Ukraine, overcoming its consequences.

Moreover, these initiative representatives are eager to share insights into their activities, recount their stories, achievements, and discuss the ongoing projects they are involved in. The Congress offers an opportunity to establish connections with them, gather material on the antiwar movement in Russia, and learn about the specific projects the Russian antiwar community is engaged in at this moment.

Journalists will be able to conduct first-hand interviews and produce important stories about the Russian antiwar movement, to provide their readers with a more complex understanding of the current situation.

Security and Privacy at the Congress:

We take the safety and well-being of our participants seriously. Due to the sensitivity of the topics and potential legal consequences for some attendees, we have implemented strict security measures:

- **Photography:** Photography is permitted only in designated areas and with the explicit consent of the individuals being photographed. Blind zones within the venue are strictly off-limits for photography. In addition, it is essential to note that some attendees will have stickers indicating that photographing them is not allowed. Please respect their privacy and adhere to their wishes.
- **Comments and Mentions:** Any comments or mentions that involve an individual's identity must have the active consent of the person mentioned and approval from the organizing committee. Also, unauthorized use of information from speakers' presentations is strictly prohibited without explicit permission.
- **Location Secrecy:** We kindly request that attendees do not disclose the event's location to anyone.

- **Restrictions on publication date:** Please note that **no information or content from the event**, including speeches, may be published online or shared before November 29th, without exception, as this measure is in place to safeguard the security and confidentiality of the event's location and schedule.

However, journalist accreditation at the event will grant you access to gather insights about the participating antiwar initiatives and the Congress itself. We will be happy to help you find topics, protagonists and experts for your publications. For those attending without journalist accreditation, professional photo and video recording equipment will not be allowed.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Congress and appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the privacy and safety of all attendees. Journalist accreditation is limited, and we reserve the right to refuse accreditation due to space limitations. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter as we prioritize the safety and security of all attendees.

For further information and media inquiries, please contact Marina Solnzewa at congress@antiwar.in, +491726887274 (Telegram:@SolnzewaMarina)

Some of the members of the Platform and participants of the Congress:

- "Get Lost", helping people to avoid being involved in a bloody war of Russia in Ukraine,
- Feminist Anti-war Resistance,
- Movement of Conscientious Objectors to military service in Russia,
- Prague Russian Antiwar Committee, community of Russian speaking people who condemn Putin's aggression against Ukraine,
- Sphere Foundation, a human rights organization, which brings systemic changes to the daily realities of the Russian LGBT+ community,
- Russians Against War, antiwar Committee in Sweden,
- The Ark, supporting people and initiatives who fight against the war in Ukraine and the Putin's regime,
- Vesna, Youth Democratic Movement,
- Voice of Free Russia, non-profit international group of Russian artists, producers, journalists and other creative professionals around the world,
- Yurt Community
- Vyvozhuk, Initiative for the evacuation of political convicts,
- more than fifty other initiatives and by over thirty anonymous members, encompassing activists and communities.

Preliminary Programme, 27 November

09:00 – 10:00	REGISTRATION WELCOME COFFEE	
10:00 – 12:00	Opening of the Congress 10:00 – 10:40 Opening Words – Mariana Katzarova, Special UN rapporteur on HR in RF	
	10:40 – 11:00 Presentation of the Platform 4 representatives of the Platform	
	11:00 – 12:00 Networking “Agora” & Coffee – Pop-up Meeting point presentations	
12:00 – 14:00	First wave of breakout sessions	
	STRATEGY Session #1 What can Russian civil society do to support Ukraine? Curators: – Evgeniy Lyamin, project "Emigration for Action" + Representatives from Ukrainian civil society (tbc) Session #4 Strategy of resistance in Russia: transformation and democratisation Curators: – Jeremy Morris, Researcher on Russia and post-Soviet societies, professor, Aarhus University, Denmark (tbc) – Sasha Talaver, gender researcher, coordinator of the Feminist Anti-War Resistance (FAR)	VISION Session #2 Cooperation between the EU and the Russian democratic forces: do we need a united opposition? Curators: – Maria Domańska, PhD is a senior fellow at the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) in Warsaw – Alex Yusupov, Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, Director of the Russian Program – Ivan Preobrazhensky, political analyst
	ACTION Session #3 1,5 years of Russian political relocation in the EU: what can be done to improve the transit process for future new arrivals Curators: tbc	
14:00 – 15:00	LUNCH	
	Pop-up Meeting point presentations	

15:00 – 17:00	Second wave of breakout sessions	
Session #5 Human rights in Russia: what can we do to support and cooperate with those who stay inside Russia? Curators: - Vytis Jurkonis, <i>Freedom House</i> - Inna Berezkina, <i>School of Civic Education</i>	Session #6 Russian civil society inside Russia: how to keep cooperating? Curators: - Elena Stein, Center for Independent Social Research (CISR e.V.) + Representative from the Prague Civic Society Center	Session #7 Bringing abducted Ukrainian children, refugees and prisoners of war from Russia back to Ukraine Curators: - Oleksandra Romantsova, executive director Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine) - Anonymous curator, a person from Russia, a member of the Platform who deals with human rights and this topic Session #8 Supporting the Anti-War Initiatives: opportunities and priorities. Curators: - Joyce Kuaovi, independent fundraiser - Rachel van Horn, National Endowment for Democracy
17:00 – 17:30	COFFEE BREAK	
	Pop-up Meeting point presentations	
17:30 – 18:00	Peace Manifesto – Presentation	
18:00 – 19:30	Final joint session	
	Harvest of the day - Key Takeaways from each session Next steps in the cooperation Moderators: - Jon Kyst, Head of Sector, EEAS - Irina Knyazeva, Platform coordinator Speakers: - (tbc) Peter Wagner, Director General FPI - Andrius Kubilius MEP - (tbc) Eamon Gilmore, EUSR Human Rights - Rep German MFA	

STRATEGY | Jointly developing roadmaps and solutions to existing problems

VISION | Discussing political questions of representation and modes of collective action

ACTION | Practical questions of what is already being done and how the platform can be supported