

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine – a democratic, peaceful country – has been a litmus test for the collective West and democracies around the world. Authoritarian governments grow increasingly willing to violate the international rules based order in order to boost their territories, resources or subjugate other people. Australia's response to an authoritarian state - led by one of the most corrupt, dead-hearted, megalomaniac leaders in world history – invading a peaceful neighbouring country has been nothing short of paltry. Sending the Ukraine military old outdated equipment (Bushmasters notwithstanding) and drip feeding this aid to them has been shameful. We know that the so-called '780 million' in military aid donated is completely misleading, as it bases the value of this equipment from many years ago. We couldn't even send them Taipan helicopters because they had been apparently earmarked for destruction.

Yes, the U.S and NATO are ramping up their support – but Russia has now fully converted itself into a wartime economy, and as we know from WW2, it's military-industrial complex is incredibly robust when it kicks into gear. And with the US election later this year, who knows what the future holds for support to Ukraine. Australia NEEDS to stand with our democratic allies in lending more aid to Ukraine, so it can fight this worthy battle against an oppressive regime. If nothing else, this is the morally right thing to do, to let another nation decide its fate for itself, not absorbed into the collective misery and oppression that the Russian Federation offers.

Furthermore, the geopolitical consequences of further inaction by Australia will inevitably embolden other authoritarian countries such as the PRC to attempt their own 'grab' in Taiwan and possibly beyond. Australia needs to step up and do what is right. Send more aid to Ukraine. Military aid above all.

I hope that my government will step up and do what is right.

Sincerely,