

Solidarity Ukraine – issue 56 - Number 10– Commandments

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) joins in international solidarity for Ukraine attacked by Russia on February 24, 2022. The COVID pandemic has weakened democratic countries. Conspiracy theories and hate speech have exploded. This war in Europe is existential for the European Union. This newsletter is the 10th published in 2026 and the 56th since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. October, 10th month of the year. The number 10 evokes the biblical Commandments, the basis of monotheisms. Religious references have become frequent in Russia where the Orthodox religion is instrumentalized at the same time as Stalin is rehabilitated, a true "living God". The moral foundations of the Ten Commandments are systematically flouted by autocrats. These contradictory injunctions further destroy the Russian population, terrorized and despoiled by the powerful men of the security system, the siloviki. Ukraine has been resisting with a clear goal since the 2014 Maidan Revolution to join the European Union. Democracy can be transformed into a secular Stations of the Cross, with protests and oppositions that test public institutions and the rule of law. EU membership is worth the hardship, and will also be the end of the nightmare, by providing institutional protection to Ukrainians. Civil society watches and acts, a valuable counterpower. The European Union is also being attacked by Russia and its allies. It must find new alliances, or strengthen historical and strategic partnerships, such as with Canada. If the maps can change, geography is immutable. Canadians are Americans; Ukrainians are Europeans. But the EU's networks of influence extend beyond its geographical borders. And a threatening neighbor can also be neutralized and discredited.

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Number ten - 10 commandments

In the Bible, Exodus is a major episode that corresponds to the liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and the gift of the Law, on Mount Sinai, to Moses (1). The ten commandments find an enlightening application in contemporary events and modern conflicts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, particularly the war in Ukraine. "You shall have no other gods than me"; monotheism was established; it organized religions around one God, shared references and a single community of believers. "You shall not make any idol, any image of that which is above in the heavens, or below on the earth, or in the waters beneath the earth"; bigotry and sectarian excesses threaten all religion around gurus, such as modern dictators, with a cult of personality. "Thou shalt not call upon the name of the Lord thy God for evil; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who calls upon his name for evil." ; the instrumentalization of religion for reasons of war has always existed, the Orthodox religion in Russia under president Vladimir Putin strongly supports war. "You will make the Sabbath a memorial, a sacred day"; the hybrid war practiced by Russia prevents to disconnect and thus to keep a critical mind, brain fatigue is a formidable weapon. "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayest have long life in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." ; all modern totalitarianisms (Nazism, Fascism, Stalinism, Maoism...) have broken up families to facilitate the fanaticism of uprooted individuals. "You shall not commit murder". Deadly conflicts punctuated the twentieth century; they resumed in the twenty-first century with globalized and hypermediated terrorism from 2001 (attack of the Twin Towers in NYC) . The war in Ukraine is a new episode. "You shall not commit adultery," a powerful element of personal destabilization used as a weapon for blackmail, Russian Kompromat . "You will not commit theft"; the predation of rogue states begins with the spoliation of others' property, always under false pretexts. "You will not bear false witness against your neighbor"; the touchstone of any disinformation strategy; hate speech multiplied with social networks and AI since 2022. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house"; the premise of Russia's war against Ukraine, a sovereign state that another nation wishes to "annex".

President Vladimir Putin and his supporters, by attacking Ukraine in 2022, and his allies, have gone against most of the Ten Commandments, especially the fifth, which forbids committing murder, and the tenth, which forbids coveting the property of others. Joseph Stalin is celebrated in Russia when the Stalinist regime has reportedly killed between 15 and 20 million people (2); the Russian and Ukrainian victims since the beginning of the conflict have already surpassed one million. Russia's allies are in the same spirit. China under XI Jinping refers to Mao, whose regime caused more than 20 million victims (1949-1976) according to experts (3). The record of abuses committed by other allies of Russia (North Korea or Iran) since the arrival of the regime of the mullahs (1979) or the Kim (1948) is just as bloody. Everyone covets the property of others – plunder and benefit.

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10th commandment in Russia

A three-part investigation published in September 2026 in France (4) describes a Russian state in the hands of "siloviki," officers from the security services who terrorize the Russian population, preventing the normal conduct of legislative elections, and redistribute property by spoliating the true owners. The peace process is blocked; the siloviki have an advantage in maintaining the war, a major argument to muzzle any opposition and continue to despoil Russian entrepreneurs. Predation starts with its own population.

The KGB became FSB, the Russian intelligence service, and took control of power. The number of personnel in the presidential guard, the FSO, has also increased since 2022, rising to 50,000 people, according to classified information. They have “bunkered” president Vladimir Putin, who is isolated from informed people who would give him a realistic analysis of the situation; the special military operation against Ukraine has failed. For Andrey Kolesnikov, a critical politician "There will therefore be an escalation. On the Ukrainian front. And about the inner workings, with ever more society being put under glass by the siloviki. Indissociable, these two escalations form the essence of the regime. (5). The language of hatred against the enemy (Ukraine, Europe, West) gangrenes population who prefers to adhere through ignorance or fear of reprisals. Denunciation is the usual weapon of dictatorships (institutionalized under Mao during the Cultural Revolution).

The FSB, the federal security service, is responsible for monitoring Russian borders, whether on land or in the air (6). It has all powers – repression of opponents, counter-espionage, and other privileges personally granted by president Vladimir Putin, without any further control. For Andrey Soldatov, a researcher in exile associated with the Center for European Policy Analysis and founder of the website Agentura.ru, the FSB instils a "sense of terror". It is omnipresent and has multiplied, and has infiltrated all the components of the State, the presidential administration, ministries, courts, but also companies, schools, theaters... The FSB has its own provisional detention centers and decides on the elimination of opponents (Alexei Navalny in 2024). Everyone is obliged to provide the FSB with all the information it needs. Since 2022, it has received all the powers (tortures, detentions, eliminations...).

Since the invasion of Ukraine, the Russian authorities have also embarked on a vast redistribution of property (7). It is intended to regain control of strategic sectors, military factories, oil terminals, transport companies, holding companies in the agri-food sector, banks. Seized by the State under false pretexts, they are sold to "loyal" entrepreneurs during opaque and biased auctions. Since 2022, nearly 200 companies have changed hands, a proportion as large as at the time of the implosion of the USSR in 1991. These mafia and systemic methods do not augur any hope for peace on the Russian side. The mindset of the President Putin and its supporters is unpeaceful.

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10/10 in Ukraine

Ukraine's "commandments" are secular, democratic, and forward-looking. Since the Maidan Revolution in 2014, Ukrainians have chosen their side – that of the European Union and its values that have made its success for the past 70 years (1957). The "commandments" are simple: respect the content of the Treaties (the legal and regulatory basis that has enabled Europe's economic prosperity and prevented corruption), comply with demanding specifications in economic matters (a social market economy respectful of competition and the rule of law, freedom of movement without arbitrary restrictions), social (equal opportunities, no undue privileges granted to self-proclaimed castes, respect for diversity) and political (democracy based on pluralism, freedom of vote and expression, and objective and informed information through free media).

President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was democratically elected in 2019, has been unable to hold new elections. The Ukrainian constitution does not allow it in time of war. The first attack from Russia and its allies (including many political parties on the far left or right of the chessboard in Europe) is that Ukraine, at war against its will, lacks democracy. For four and a half years, its national narrative was entirely dedicated to the mobilization of Ukrainian citizens, whose determination and mindset are the basis of resistance. Yet opposition was expressed in the street, in the summer of 2026, to support a defense minister. Asked to leave office, neither he nor his family were worried by the Ukrainian authorities. Russian discordant voices like those of Yevgeny Prigogin, in the summer of 2023, were eliminated by the services of the Russian state. Nor were the Ukrainian protesters in July arrested, tortured, and sent to prison; Russian opponents did.

Fundamental and revealing of the democratic transition in which Ukraine is engaged, civil society plays its full role as recalled by Asier Santillan Luzuriaga, head of the section for European integration, governance, rule of law and civil society, at the 6th Forum on legal reforms for civil society that took place in September (7). Ukrainian civil society plays an important role in the country's democratic development. Its experience, expertise and voice are part of the implementation of reforms that define Ukraine's European future. Civil society and the authorities worked together in 2025 on the roadmap for the functioning of democratic institutions. This collaboration will extend to other areas of the enlargement process. The National Strategy for the Promotion of Civil Society Development (2027-2032) will provide a basis for increased engagement between CSOs and authorities, and for effective participation of civil society in policy making. "The resilience of democracy depends not only on strong institutions, but also on citizens' ability to participate in decisions that shape the country's future."

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Ten of clubs in Europe

In cards, the 10 of clubs is a favorable card that symbolizes financial success, material abundance and the end of money worries. It represents a fight to be fought, objectives crowned with success on the condition that they are tackled. Geopolitics is not as rational as it should be with emotional alliance changes. It often involves poker shots. You must know how to draw the right card at the right time. The European Union has decided to play an unexpected card by responding to the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and extending a hand to him through the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen during her speech on the State of the Union on 16 September and the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, at the opening of the European Parliament session on 17 September.

Ursula von der Leyen has proposed that Canada would become "the first associate member of the Union" as part of an "alliance for the future" (8). The Canadian prime minister has suggested a “deep partnership,” and proposed that all 27 EU member countries would agree on the correct nomenclature and forms that this “unique partnership” could take. Canada is not a European country, and it does not wish to sign all the European treaties, as Ukraine has been preparing for since it officially applied for membership, and its candidacy was agreed by the EU. The rapprochement with a transatlantic ally came from the same observation – a clear disagreement with the United States, whose government, which arrived at the White House in January 2025, has continued to escalate threats of annexation (Canada presented as the 51st US state and Greenland considered as annexed) and commercial invectives. (customs tariffs multiplying). European and Canadian sovereignty are at stake. Ukraine is under a similar pressure from Russia since 2014. Russian coercion has been gradual, and its hybrid war against Europe began as soon as President Putin came to power in 2000, and openly with his 2007 speech in Munich at the Conference on Security in Europe, a declaration of latent war. The US is still a competitor, not an enemy.

The Canada-EU alliance strategy would be a "win-win" strategy. Since June 2026, Canada has been participating in the €150 billion SAFE program (Security Action for Europe). Canadian companies can benefit from orders from European countries. The European Union and Canada are to present concrete projects at the summit scheduled for 29-30 October in Montreal (Quebec, French-speaking Canada), in trade and financial areas. In 2027, the country with the maple leaf flag will participate in its first Eurovision contest. A subliminal way of saying that Canadians and Europeans sing in unison. Celine Dion, a Canadian singer was already a noticeable candidate 40 years ago.

The culture war launched at the European Union by its autocratic adversaries has gained a valuable ally - Canada. A strong Ukrainian community already exists on Canadian territory, another common point that brings us closer The EU together with Canada for Ukraine. ***Slava Ukraini*** !-

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(1) Ten commandments- https://eglise.catholique.fr/approfondir-sa-foi/vivre-sa-foi-a-tous-les-ages/vivre-en-chretien/372284-les-10-commandements/ , téléchargé le 29/09/2026
(2) USSR : the bloody impact of Joseph Staline ; https://www.histoire-et-civilisations.com/thematiques/epoque-contemporaine/urss-le-sombre-bilan-du-stalinisme-86883.php , téléchargé le 29/09/2026
(3) Paul Wiederhold and Annette Baumeister « Mao , Red Emperor ", Germany., 2024, 3 × 50 min ; Arte, September 2026- https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/RC-025727/mao-l-empereur-rouge/
(4) Le Monde, a French newspaper, September 2026
(5) Benjamin Quenelle « Vladimir Poutine, président bunkérisé », Le Monde, 17 septembre 2026 ;
(6) Isabelle Mandraud « Comment la Russie est devenue « Etat FSB », Le Monde, 18 septembre 2026
(7) Marie Jégo « L'Etat russe, prédateur au service de la guerre », Le Monde, 19 septembre 2026
(8) EU delegation toUkraine- https://lnkd.in/p/eRC3P7qu
(9) Philippe Jacqué et Sophie Fay « Mark Carney défend sa volonté d'alliance avec l'UE à Strasbourg », Le Monde, 19 septembre 2026

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