

The Movement for the Abolition of War

PRESS RELEASE

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The Movement for the Abolition of War has called on the UK government not to become involved in the conflict in the Ukraine.

It has condemned the announcement that the government is considering "further requests for support" from Ukraine and warns that the commitment not to send combat troops could easily be eroded.

Defence secretary Michael Fallon told MPs that a total of 75 military personnel will be sent to the Ukraine in the next few weeks to provide advice and training.

He said the aim was to "build up the capacity and resilience" of Ukraine's forces.

Almost 5,800 people have died since the fighting in Ukraine erupted last April, the UN has estimated, although the organisation believes the real figure could be considerably higher.

MAW warns that sending military personnel to Ukraine will increase the risk of armed conflict and do nothing to bring about a negotiated settlement.

It agrees with a recent statement by Tory MP Sir Edward Leigh who said the British people would not tolerate any military involvement in the region, adding: "We have no strategic, historic or actual interest in Ukraine."

MAW chair Tim Devereux said: "This is a worrying development which will only serve to stoke up hostilities in Ukraine instead of encouraging negotiations towards a peaceful settlement.

"We call on the UK government to promote peace in Europe, not war, and to commit to a non-violent solution in Ukraine."

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Notes for editors

For more information please see <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk>