

Radicali Italiani and its commitment to Ukraine

Radicali Italiani is an Italian liberal and libertarian political movement, affiliated to the ALDE-Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. It was born thanks to the Transnational and Transparty Radical Party, with Consultative Status at the ECOSOC of the United Nations, and animated, until his death, by the nonviolent leader Marco Pannella and by Emma Bonino, former European Commissioner and former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Radical Party, among others, stood out for its intense commitment to the campaign that first led to the birth of ad hoc International Tribunals, and then to the creation of the International Criminal Court.

In the 1990s, the Radical Party opened offices in all the countries of the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine (the headquarters were in Kyiv, in what used to be Chervonoarmijska 114-20), to carry out political campaigns for democracy and rights, collecting registrations from citizens and parliamentarians.

Since Vladimir Putin came to power, the Radicals have begun a long battle to denounce the authoritarian drift of his regime, in particular by working tirelessly to raise awareness of the real situation of the war of extermination in Chechnya, with numerous parliamentary and citizen initiatives, meetings public and civil disobedience actions (hunger strikes, demonstrations, etc.) and promotion of the peace plan drawn up by the last democratically elected Chechen leadership.

With the Euromaidan, the Radicals support the pro-European aspirations of the Ukrainian demonstrators, openly hoping for Ukraine to join the European Union and, at the beginning of 2014, publicly denounce the aims of "Tsar Putin" who, after Chechnya and Georgia, has the goal to "take over" Ukraine, especially after the occupation of Crimea and the military control of Donbass.

At the end of 2014, Radicali Italiani organized the public meeting: "European Ukraine. The political and cultural ties between Ukraine and Europe", with the speech, among others, by an Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Government.

In early 2015, after the murder of Russian opponent Boris Nemtsov, Radicali Italiani organized a series of demonstrations entitled "Democratic Russia, European Ukraine". In the same year, following the controversial arrest of the Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko, detained in Russia, Radicali Italiani organized a national battle for her release with demonstrations, hunger strikes and parliamentary motions, which continued incessantly until her release.

In 2016, Radicali Italiani launched a series of public initiatives (articles, meetings, etc.) to explore the issue of Russian propaganda and disinformation as a tool for hybrid warfare in the evolution of the situation in Ukraine.

In the same year, Radicali Italiani denounced the opening of the "Representation of the Donetsk People's Republic Center in Italy" in Turin, an attempt to accredit the self-proclaimed and self-styled republic by political exponents of the Italian far right parties. The initiative arrives in Parliament with a parliamentary questioning.

In 2017, after a series of interviews on Italian state television with Italian mercenaries fighting with pro-Russians in Ukraine, exponents of Radicali Italiani denounced the connivance between Italian far-right politicians and militiamen in Donbass.

At the same time, they increasingly promoted the need for Ukraine to join the EU as a means of responding to Putin's expansionism and as a non-violent weapon of defense for Ukraine and Europe itself. In all these years, Radicali Italiani has denounced Italian politics and information that define the "war of aggression" carried out by Vladimir Putin in Ukraine as a "civil war".

Since 2019 Radicali Italiani openly supports – with public meetings (one of which at the Italian Senate), articles, interviews, etc. – the defense of Vitaly Markiv, accused of the killing in Donbass of the Italian photojournalist Andrea Rocchelli together with the human rights activist Andrei Mironov (a member of the Radical Party in the past years) in 2014. In particular, Radicali Italiani is the only Italian party to take a clear position, together with the Ukrainian community, in favor of the Ukrainian military and against Russian influence in the judicial affair: the case was marked by a climate of hostility from a large part of the media, Italian intellectuals and politicians, openly aligned in favor of the anti-Ukrainian reconstruction of the events that led to the tragic deaths of Rocchelli and Mironov. With this in mind, Radicali Italiani supported the project of the investigative documentary «Crossfire», by Cristiano Tinazzi, with Olga Tokariuk, Danilo Elia and Ruben Lagattolla; Radicali Italiani also took part in the documentary film «Free Vitaly Markiv» directed by Oles Sanin. Numerous initiatives to restore the judicial truth of the case followed, until Markiv's complete acquittal.

In January 2022, Radicali Italiani denounced through parliamentary initiatives the openly pro-Russian news reports from the Donbass of the main newscast in Italian state television, in the peak viewing time slot.

In February 2022, before the large-scale invasion, Radicali Italiani promoted a series of demonstrations in support of the integrity of Ukraine in various Italian cities, together with the Ukrainian communities and the Christian Association of Ukrainians of Italy led by Oles Horodetsky.

After the large-scale invasion, Radicali Italiani launched the multilingual appeal "Putin in the Hague" (available on radicali.it/putin-allaja in Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, Georgian, Italian, English, French, Spanish, German) for the indictment of Vladimir Putin, and the entire chain of command, by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In just a few days, thousands of signatures were collected.

In the following months, Radicali Italiani organized a series of debates on the Movement's social channels entitled "War against Ukraine is war against Europe".

On the occasion of the anniversary of the 25th of April, which commemorates and celebrates the Italian Resistance during the Second World War, Radicali Italiani organized the conference "An April 25th also for Ukraine" in Rome, with speeches by jurists, journalists and activists from Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Turkey. The Proceedings of the conference were published in a book.

Through a national appeal, Radicali Italiani asks for Italy's recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide of the Ukrainian people and as a crime against humanity. It also promotes a campaign that invites Russian citizens to desert and not to support Putin's war: a series of posts are published on the Russian social network VK and the account will be permanently blocked after two days for "violation of the rules"; an email was sent to

1,422,818 addresses of Russian citizens, retrieved from the dark web thanks to Anonymous. The email contained the link to the Ukrainian project "I want to live" and the number of the Unified Center for Receiving Applications for Surrender.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the large-scale invasion, on 24 February, Radicali Italiani together with the Christian Association of Ukrainians of Italy, organized a national demonstration in Rome named "A light for Ukraine", with the adhesion of dozens of associations and parties, the participation of thousands of people and the intervention of top-level politicians, Russian and Belarusian opponents, as well as the ambassadors in Italy of Ukraine and Sweden (current president of the EU) as well as the Representative of the European Commission in Italy. At the same time, Radicali Italiani asks all Italian Municipalities to illuminate the main city monuments with the yellow and blue colors of the Ukrainian flag or to display the Ukrainian flag from institutional buildings: dozens of cities respond favorably, including many regional and provincial capitals; among these Rome, Milan, Turin, Venice, Florence, Naples, Palermo.

With an initiative aimed initially at the City of Turin and then extended to all the Mayors, Radicali Italiani promoted the twinning of Italian cities with Ukrainian cities to support their reconstruction and open channels of cultural, economical and social collaboration.

Radicali Italiani supports the initiative organized by "People for Ukraine" to report Ukrainian citizens who have seen their rights violated by the Russian invasion to the UN Human Rights Committee.

For the anniversary of the 25th of April 2023, Radicali Italiani asked every demonstration, that will be held in Italy in memory of the liberation from fascism, to give the floor to exponents of the Ukrainian community. Simultaneously, the leadership of Radicali Italiani – Massimiliano Iervolino, Secretary, Giulia Crivellini, Treasurer, Igor Boni, President, Silvja Manzi, former Secretary, and others – will hold a press conference in Kyiv. Today the Resistance to the oppressor is that of Ukrainians and this Resistance must be supported in every way, because the defense of Ukraine is the defense of Europe.