



## Solidarité pour l'Ukraine –numéro 33- Peter Pan

### DANS CE NUMERO

Adults in the room

The golden age of the Gulags  
in Russia

Adulthood in Ukraine

Syndrome of Peter Pan

Useful contacts

The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) is associated to the international solidarity for Ukraine attacked by Russia on 24th February 2022. After a pandemic that has weakened democratic countries with the disturbing rise of conspiracy theories and hate speech on social networks, we do hope this war in Europe will be an opportunity to reflect on a new solidarity, among European and international allies. This issue is the 11th one for 2024 and the 33rd since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.... On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2024, the US elections will be decisive for Europe and the World. Isolationism is asserted on the Republican side, with a candidate, Donald Trump, who promises to settle things in 24 hours with Vladimir Putin. If Kamala Harris, the Democrats' candidate, is elected,

European countries will be reassured under the condition that her side has a majority in Parliament (Senate and House of Representatives). In a first point, we will ask ourselves if there are «adults in the room» on the Republican side. In a second point, we will reflect on the golden age of the Russian president, a return to the old, Soviet world of gulags. In a third point, we will discuss the entry into adulthood of Ukraine with an opinion that is expressed freely on the streets and through free media. In a final point, we will mention the Peter Pan syndrome, which characterizes beings who do not want to grow. Faced with nuclear weapons, and the Russian threats, European countries must show maturity. Democracies have everything to lose if Ukraine capitulates. This war would not have been in vain if the European countries understood that they had to build a common defense against the threat of authoritarian countries, without US support. An existential challenge for the 21st century.

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\* logo designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

## Adults in the room

A poll published by the New York Times in March 2024 showed that American voters were much more concerned about the age of the Democratic candidate, Joseph Biden, than about that of the Republican candidate, Donald Trump (1). Age means experience, longevity in politics is an asset – normally you are supposed to have known and overcome crises, formed a relevant network with foreign leaders, learned how to moderate your words or actions. Attacking Joseph Biden's cognitive impairment was a low blow that backfired on the Republicans when Kamala Harris was named by Joseph Biden as a new candidate, a choice confirmed by the Democrats at their convention in Chicago in August 2024. Donald Trump is now the oldest candidate, with mental confusion, memory lapses and chronic instability (2) in front of a mentally and physically fit Democratic candidate.

Trump has popularized the expression “adult in the room” with childish, capricious and hostile behavior towards his interlocutors. Teresa May, the British Prime Minister was treated with cavalier manner. Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, was attacked with a Germanophobic slur. The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, has been personally attacked. President Trump is acting like a spoiled brat who says what he thinks in the low voice, without any filter. He openly grumbles when his proposals are not approved and stubbornly refuses to read the notes prepared by experts. His resistance to frustration is limited; after his defeat by Joe Biden in November 2020, he refused to admit defeat and incited fanatical supporters to attack the Capitol in January 2021. American democracy has faltered for a few hours in the face of an international opinion mired in contempt (2). Trump and his supporters then built a creative storytelling - they would have been prisoners of plotters. But the most important threat is that it is manipulable and manipulated. He promised to withdraw from NATO and abandon Ukraine, leaving the field open for his "friend" Vladimir Putin. The Russian intelligence services have been manipulating him since the financial troubles of the 1980s (3).

Another major concern, an unconditional support of Donald Trump appeared in 2024- Elon Musk, the richest man in the world. He had distinguished himself in the war in Ukraine by supporting the Ukrainians before backing away. Since the acquisition of X (former Twitter) in October 2022, he has evolved dangerously - multiplying false information, feeding hateful and conspiratorial misinformation, and getting closer to leaders with authoritarian excesses. He claims to fight for freedom of expression and democracy while an American documentary (4) showed the brutal and opaque management of his social network X (former-Twitter).

Trump-Musk duo, two compulsive and immature twitters at the head of the US in the event of a Republican victory is the most accurate threat against American democracy, which would no longer have “adults in the room”, the assured promise of major geopolitical disturbances

## Back to the Golden Age of the Gulags in Russia

The references of Vladimir Putin recall the rich hours, the most terrible, of the Soviet Union. The way opponents of the Russian regime are treated is a legacy of the Stalinist era. After the death of his first opponent, Alexei Navalny, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, in an Arctic penal colony called “Polar Wolf”, a French newspaper published Navalny’s correspondence with the Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky based in Israel (5). Known as Anatoly Shcharansky, close to physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1975, he spent nine years in Soviet prisons. Figure of the Refuseniks (Soviet Jews persecuted in the USSR), he emigrated to Israel in 1986, published a book (6), held several ministerial posts, and was appointed head of the Jewish Agency (2009-2018) responsible for Jewish immigration. Natan Sharanski considers Europe and his experience in Soviet prisons as his “Alma Mater”. Alexei Navalny and Natan Sharanski find with melancholy that nothing has changed since the Soviet era, a “play of mirrors between eras, countless similarities between the Soviet and Putin systems”.

They share one common thread: “the stubborn refusal of fear”. Navalny will have a more tragic end. In the far north, the opponent will be sent “to work his soul and see his body die” (4). With the squeaky humour that characterized him, Navalny wrote to Natan Sharanski “I write you from ShIZO – I will have spent a total of one hundred and twenty-eight days there! And I laughed at the reading of this passage, “I was punished by being sent to ShiZO for a fortnight, then, as I had broken prison rules, I was sent to the PKT”. What amused me was that neither the essence of the system nor its methods have changed. (...) in a disciplinary cell, with reduced food rations, I understood that some people were paying a much higher price for their convictions. (...) the similarity between the two systems – that of the Soviet Union and that of Putin’s Russia – their ideological resemblance, their hypocrisy as the basis of the regime.” Navalny shares with Natan Sharanski an unwavering optimism “you write that political dissidents in prison retain the “virus of freedom” and it is important to prevent the KGB from inventing a vaccine against this virus. (...) It is far from being eradicated. There are no longer tens or hundreds, as in the past, but tens and hundreds of thousands of individuals who are not afraid to stand up for freedom and against war, despite the threats they face.”

Indeed, braving the prohibitions and police brutality, thousands of Russians attended his funeral on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2024 in Moscow despite the physical threats of the intelligence service (7). The autobiography of Alexei Navalny has just been published (8), a recitation gathered by his wife Yulia Navalnaïa who took over the torch. According to the investigation site *The Insider*, his death in prison is due to a new poisoning (9). As during the Stalinist purges, the gulags were filled with innocent people whose only fault was to have told the truth, “*pravda*” in Russian.

## Entry in adulthood in Ukraine

In a democracy, there are no dissidents. Opponents can speak freely. Citizens show their disapproval on the streets. Critical thinking, if it is also against oneself, is one of the qualities required to be an adult citizen. The situation is different in wartime when critics must not undermine the morale of troops (who fight on the front) or be used by their opponents against themselves (blessed bread for misinformation). Ukraine had to grow fast. Free expression and critical thinking are doing well despite war fatigue felt by the combatants and their families while being careful not to play against his troops. The exercise of democracy is more demanding in wartime.

“After two years of conflict, the country’s unity has been tested” (10). The challenge for the Ukrainian government is to mobilize new troops to replace the many dead and wounded. Families (mothers and wives of military personnel) protest every week, without being brutalized, in the big cities to demand the return of their loved ones. A bill was passed by the Ukrainian Parliament (Rada) on 7 February 2024 to increase penalties for those who refuse, simplify recruitment procedures and lower the mandatory age from 27 to 25. Demobilization (promised after 36 months) remains the prerogative of military command. The brutal methods of recruitment agents, stories of bribes paid to avoid joining the army or the stories of smugglers hired to cross the Moldovan, Hungarian or Slovak borders are damaging to troops' morale. The gap is widening between the rear and the front. Ukrainians speak out knowing they are also playing against their troops. The information war has never ceased. Any weakness of the enemy is abundantly commented on by the opposing camp and raised to a high standard.

In a LinkedIn post published on 6 March 2024, Sergiy Tomilenko, president of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU) writes (11), “Democracy and the desire to be a free country are what separates us from Russia, from tyranny. We believe that the lives of war victims will not be in vain. We believe in a democratic Ukraine and the will of society to protect journalists and media.” There were many victims. But the coverage of the western media, and the support of many experts for the Ukrainian cause, have never ceased to avoid the lassitude of war, and a «competition» with other conflicts. After two and a half years of heroic resistance, Ukraine is going through a difficult period with the exhaustion of its troops, the advances and especially the Russian destructions and the hesitations of the western camp. The aid is not enough and may run out. President Volodymyr Zelenski attempted on September 26, 2024 at the UN General Assembly to present his “victory plan” to President Biden and the two candidates, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. The Democratic candidate assured him of her “unwavering” support. The Republican candidate has consistently criticized Ukraine (12). Volodymyr Zelenski presented his plan to the European Council on 18 October 2024.

Ukrainians must obtain guarantees in case of a peace agreement. Anticipation and lucidity are the hallmarks of adult leaders, as demonstrated by the Ukrainian president in 1,000 days of war.

## Peter Pan syndrome

Peter Pan is a fictional character created by British author J. M. Barrie, first appearing in a novel, then in a play of the same name and finally in the play of Peter Wendy. (13) - “the boy who did not want to grow up”. Peter Pan syndrome (PPS) is “recognized as a behavioral disorder but not classified as mental illness” (14). People with PPS have difficulty in fulfilling their responsibilities and roles as adults. They prefer to maintain a lifestyle that is close to childhood or adolescence. In social life, symptoms include existential anxiety about important life choices, disproportionate dependence on others, excessive concern for their image, extreme attention to their physical appearance, and “a form of selfish, childish and capricious” desire to “have everything right away.” These narcissistic characteristics are accompanied by a feeling of persistent dissatisfaction that further increases their anxiety. Difficulties in social life induce a form of isolation, to avoid being disappointed; narcissistic wounds complicate their social relations.

Many European countries seem to have Peter Pan’s syndrome in their defense policies. The one-for-one system is no longer working. Dependence on NATO, and the US, would be critical in case of a victory of the Republicans. Faced with the threat of authoritarian regimes, Russia in Europe or China in the world, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen suggested that the European defense strategy should reach adulthood: “We are working to take our defense industry to the next level. Today we will present a new defense industrial strategy – to move Europe from urgency to anticipation.” (15). The election on November 5, 2024 of a US president, Donald Trump, pro-Putin, flanked by an Elon Musk, would see the advent of the first fascist regime in the United States, with the risks of secession of several states, such as California or other states of the East Coast, and a new civil war (16). In his speech to the nation on Thursday, February 29, 2024 (17), Vladimir Putin made no secret of his intention to take another step in the war with the use of nuclear weapons against Western countries if they continued their active support for Ukraine. According to US and Western military experts, Russia could attack the European Union as early as 2030 (16).

Peter Pan, like any child or teenager facing a frustration or anxiety, flies away to not face reality. There is no safe place left to deal with nuclear weapons. The world is not enough.... Elon Musk found the parade-the red planet, Mars, became his “New Frontier”. He wants to make life “multi-planetary”. Democrat, republican, whatever, “the truth is elsewhere”, slogan of a cult series among teenagers and older children - “X files” (18). The letter X is also the favorite of Musk, a very «space» man, SpaceX....

- (1) [Lisa Lerer](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/03/us/politics/biden-age-trump-poll.html?smid=nytcore-android-share) and [Ruth Igielnik](#) , “Majority of Biden’s 2020 Voters Now Say He’s Too Old to Be Effective”, New York Times - March 3, 2024 – <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/03/us/politics/biden-age-trump-poll.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>
- (2) Paul Krugman, « Trump Is Running on Dystopian Fantasies », March 4, 2024- , <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/04/opinion/trump-biden.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>
- (3) Antoine Vitkine “Opération Trump : les espions russes à la conquête de l’Amérique », France 5, dimanche 20 octobre- <https://www.france.tv/france-5/le-monde-en-face/6569114-operation-trump-les-espions-russes-a-la-conquete-de-l-amerique.html#section-about>
- (4) James Jacoby, “Le monde selon Elon Musk », Etats Unis, 2023, diffusé sur Arte en octobre 2024- <https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/117797-000-A/le-monde-selon-elon-musk/>
- (5) Benoît Vitkine « Navalny, Sharansky- Lettres du Goulag », publiées sur le site The Free Press , Le Monde, samedi 2 mars 2024
- (6) Natan Sharansky « Fear No Evil » - Random House, 1988 ; “Tu ne craindras pas le mal”, Paris: Grasset
- (7) Editorial du Monde « Rester ferme face au durcissement du Kremlin », Le Monde 3 & 4 mars 2024
- (8) Alexeï Navalny (2024) « Patriote »,Paris : Rober Laffont.
- (9) Isabelle Mandraud « La biographie inachevée de l’es-opposant numéro un de Poutine », Le Monde, mardi 15 octobre 2024
- (10) Thomas d’Istria « Après deux ans de conflit, l’unité du pays éprouvée », Le Monde, 23 février 2024
- (11) « Les journalistes ukrainiens subissent une énorme pression psychologique et une crise économique », LinkedIn, 6 mars par la National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU) - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ukrainian-journalists-suffer-huge-psychological-lusgf/>
- (12) Editorial du Monde « L’Ukraine a besoin d’une garantie de l’OTAN », Le Monde, 28 septembre 2024
- (13) James Matthew Barrie , « Peter Pan », Londres, 1911
- (14) Angéline Galinier-Warrain « Syndrome de Peter Pan : l’angoisse d’intégrer le monde des adultes », vérifié le 03/10/2023 par PasseportSanté - <https://www.passeportsante.net/sante-mentale/stress-anxiete?doc=syndrome-peter-pan-savoir-sur-trouble-lie-angoisse-integrer-monde-adultes> , téléchargé le 4 mars 2024
- (15) Ursula von der Leyen, présidente de la Commission européenne, 03/03/2024- [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-commission\\_eudefence-activity-7170704242649870336-47pq?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_android](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-commission_eudefence-activity-7170704242649870336-47pq?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android)  
*We are working to take our defence industry to the next level. Today we will present a new defence industrial strategy – to make Europe move from emergency response to readiness*
- (16) Caroline Roux « C dans l’air- Spécial Etats Unis », France 5, dimanche 13 octobre 2024
- (17) Le Monde avec AFP, jeudi 29 février 2024- [https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/02/29/vladimir-poutine-dans-son-discours-annuel-a-la-nation-met-en-garde-les-occidentaux-contre-une-menace-reelle-de-guerre-nucleaire\\_6219303\\_3210.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/02/29/vladimir-poutine-dans-son-discours-annuel-a-la-nation-met-en-garde-les-occidentaux-contre-une-menace-reelle-de-guerre-nucleaire_6219303_3210.html)
- (18) Chris Carter, « The X files » , série américaine diffusée la première fois en 1993 sur Fox et rediffusée jusqu’en 2018 dans le monde.

Newsletter written on Monday, March 8, 2024, updated on October 31, 2024

## Contacts utiles

Pour aider l'Ukraine, nous souhaitons partager le contact du Syndicat national des journalistes d'Ukraine ( National Union of Journalists of Ukraine) - <https://nuju.org.ua/>

Voici une liste d'associations & ONG

**Source** : <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15542>

**Support Ukraine** – une plateforme accessible sur - <https://www.supportukraine.co/>

**Croix-Rouge Française** - [Croix-Rouge française](https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE) pour des dons financiers, en soutien de la Croix-Rouge ukrainienne, au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge - <https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE>

**Médecins sans frontières** - [fonds d'urgence](https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don) dans les pays limitrophes de l'Ukraine et cherchent à faire entrer du matériel médical et du personnel. - <https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don>

**Secours populaire** - lance un appel aux dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine . - <https://don.secourspopulaire.fr/ukraine/~mon-don>

**Protection civile** - un appel aux dons pour financer d'autres besoins (défibrillateurs, respirateurs, groupes électrogènes, etc.) : <https://don.protection-civile.org/soutenir>

**Fondation de France** - lance un [appel à la générosité](https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?) pour soutenir les centaines de milliers de personnes affectées par le conflit en Pologne et en Roumanie - - <https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?>

**Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés** - situation d'urgence de niveau 3 pour la crise en Ukraine, le plus élevé. L'UNHCR a renforcé ses opérations en Ukraine et dans les pays voisins, pour la soutenir, vous pouvez faire un don : <https://donner.unhcr.org/fr/fr-fr/urgence-ukraine?cv=1>

**Unicef** - un besoin urgent de financement pour répondre aux besoins essentiels des enfants Pour faire un don sur le site Unicef.fr - <https://don.unicef.fr/b/mon-don?cid=322&cv=1>

**ONG Care International** - un [formulaire en ligne de dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine](https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns_ira_cr_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkrj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkn%2F&private_server_time=1672227862538&cid=13&cv=1) pour apporter une aide d'urgence aux populations et aux réfugiés - - [https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns\\_ira\\_cr\\_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkrj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkn%2F&private\\_server\\_time=1672227862538&cid=13&cv=1](https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns_ira_cr_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkrj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkn%2F&private_server_time=1672227862538&cid=13&cv=1)

**L'ONG française ACTED** organise des convois humanitaires pour l'Ukraine

**association Solidarités International** – une [collecte des fonds](https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880&cv=1) pour envoyer des convois de vivres et biens de première nécessité, distribuer de l'eau et des repas aux réfugiés - <https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880&cv=1>

**Plan International**, en Pologne, Roumanie et Moldavie, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

**L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine** - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - HelloAsso - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

**Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine** - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

**JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr** est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

**Les Banques alimentaires** - une aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine, dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

**La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France** ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

**L'Association des maires de France** a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

**La plateforme officielle** « *Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine* » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](#) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

**Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF)** - Depuis le début de l'offensive russe en Ukraine, BSF se mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. « Bonjour France » est une application pour smartphone innovante et totalement gratuite, qui propose un apprentissage accéléré du français depuis l'ukrainien, disponible depuis le 19 octobre 2022.

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>

La mission catholique de l'Eglise polonaise en France suggère également le lien suivant : <https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/> - **Source** : conférence des évêques de France