

Måndagsrörelsen, December 4th, 2023

www.ukrainiansinsweden.se

Friends!

This is a blue jacket – it is a winter jacket.... No it is not! It is actually a pretty thin spring jacket!

When my friend wrote a letter to the Migration office and asked for extra money for winterclothes and shoes he was refused this. One year ago.

The Migration Office answered “Since you fled from Mariupol when it was cold we take for granted that you had warm shoes and a warm jacket. And since you are seventeen you can use those clothes for many years, so we do not grant any money for this.

That is what we in Sweden call – “En käftsmäll” – a slap in the face! It is not a good answer.

Dear All Opponents of the invasion, all Europeans!

You may know me from the Center in Solna – the Free shop. I have been supporting refugees for almost two years.

Our team stood 100 days in front of the Migration office and supported with food, clothes, shoes and more when hundreds of refugees queued every day.

After this, we opened a Center – A free shop and a place for language training and social activities – The free shop is open Sundays 15.00 – 18.00 and we have social activities in the weeks. Welcome!

Today I stand here – not as a representative of the Center or the organization, as this initiative only give humanitarian support (and do not engage in politics)

I stand here as a private person – a 55 year old normal Swedish man. And this is political

From this very same pulpit man politicians have promised support to Ukraine. I am honored to speak in such a nice place and in the same place as so many prominent people have spoken. Like today – the vice Major of two big cities. The prime minister has talked here and many politicians.

They have all given promises about that Sweden shall support Ukraine. I really believe Sweden is supporting a lot. We send a lot of money and weapons. And this is good.

But – how are we supporting the Ukrainians in our own back yard – in our own country?

In a war there are many fronts. Soldiers, logistics/medics are in the first front. And you have the supporters – the families and the supporters. You have the second front at home.

The soldiers, the medic staff, the volunteers, the logistic staff in the front

They need to know that their families are ok. Or they will worry about their homes and their loved ones. Imagine a person in the first front looking at a picture of his wife and children and saying “I am glad. They have food and they are safe”.

But unfortunately – many soldiers who have family in Sweden might say. “It is really bad actually. My wife has to line up for free food from the Red Cross. My children do not get enough food.”

40 kronor (EUR 3,5) per child – that is the financial support you get. 40 kronor för one child – that is the support you get. 71 kronor for an adult (EUR 6,5)

It is not possible to live on this.

This is creating a big problem both for you and for our Swedish society. We need to change this!

So, Sweden is supporting the first front in a good way, but we are failing to support the second front here.

We can not keep starving Ukrainian women and children here in Sweden!

The financial support to you is far to low. And I am sorry!

I know you are grateful for the Swedish support. And to the Swedish people you met.

You met wonderful people who opened their houses, who supported and gave you things.

But this is not enough. We need to have the support from the Government. And of course from the city of Stockholm. I am glad we have the vice Major of Stockholm here today and I am glad he is listening to this speech.

I also know you are careful to complain. Because you have protection here. But really – I believe the Swedish Government could do better.

40 kronors for a child – that shall cover everything. Food, medicine, everything that child needs. That is not enough to give food, clothing and heat to her children.

The amount of support to refugees has not changed or been increased since 1994. Since 1994! That is a long time! A lot of inflation since then!

And I am also aware of the problems with personal numbers and bank IDs.

Today many people have to go to Hagsätra, to the Red Cross, to the Center in Solna to get free clothes and to Uppsala to get free food. And I know you spend many hours to do this.

We must change this! This is not how it should be!

You should get enough money to support your family. So you are not hungry!

Sweden is a rich country! We need to confront the politicians about this!

They must understand how bad it is!

I actually believe that they do not understand this.

You who have jobs and can finance yourself. Congratulations! I know you are better off.

This week I was interviewed by Svenska Dagbladet Editorial Pod about the situation. So, when a leading newspaper devote their Editorial pod to this subject, you know it is a subject people want to hear about.

I need your help!

I have handed out flyers. Here you find an e-mail address and a website – ukrainiansinsweden.se

Here I have listed a lot of facts and articles about the situation for refugees in Sweden. You can also see my speeches. You can read stories by refugees.

And this is where I need your help now. Please!

I need more stories. I need your story!

I need you to help me to help you!

We will bring these stories to the politicians.

We will show them how the reality is.

We need to give you the financial support you need to be able to feed the parents and the women and the children of those who fight for us!

We need to support the second front so the first front can do a good job in the war were you are defending the peace of Europe.

Thank you Ukraine! Thank you for fighting for us!

I hope we can stand by you as good as you stand by us!

Thank you! Long live Ukraine!