

Ukrainians in Darwin assembled at Parliament House to mark the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of their homeland

A small number of Russians joined with Ukrainians to mark one-year since Moscow tried to capture Kyiv. Read why they were there.



[Camden Smith](#), NT News, 25 February 2023

Ukraine, Ukrainian, one year on: 'Ukrainians believe that they will...

The Top End's small, tight-knit Ukrainian community commemorated the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of their country with an assembly in front of Parliament House on Friday evening.

More than a dozen Ukrainians were joined by supporters from Russia and Lithuania to mark 12 months since the [unprovoked invasion](#) which has cost tens of thousands of lives and devastated parts of the country.

Darwin resident Tatiana Hoffman followed the events of 12 months ago from afar with horror as Russian bombs rained down on her former homeland and troops crossed the Ukrainian border.



About 25 other supporters gathered at Parliament House on Friday to commemorate the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Her father and aunt live in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, [which has been viciously targeted by Russian missiles](#) in part because of the nuclear power plant in the city of about 750,000 people.

Her father resisted her pleas to flee Ukraine for Poland or another safe haven, arguing that if everybody fled Ukraine there would be nobody left to defend and rebuild.

“They are getting bombed every day and there’s Russian drones from Iran with bombs,” Ms Hoffman said.

“Because the Russians can’t win by road they hit us by air, which is why there should be a no-fly zone over Ukrainian airspace.

“Aunty and dad wouldn’t leave the country because they are too patriotic and love their people.

“They’re both in their 60s and it would be hard for them to leave and start from scratch.



Supporters of Ukraine gathered at Parliament House on Friday to remember Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“At the start I was very stressed trying to do everything possible to bring them to Poland or somewhere in Europe or Australia but now they are supporting the soldiers with clothes, with anything possible.

“I am glad they’re there and helping. My father says to me ‘if we leave, who’s going to help?’



Solomon MP Luke Gosling gives a Top End twist to Ukraine’s national colours.

“I suppose people have learnt to live with the invasion and now that it’s happening they’re not hiding any more.”

[Ms Hoffman estimated about 25 refugees from the Ukrainian](#) conflict had been repatriated in Darwin so far and said she hoped more would be able to settle here into the future.

She said it was not unusual that Russian supporters of the Ukrainian cause attended Friday’s comemoration.

“When the war started there were those who supported Putin and genocide and those who have been our friends for years and others who have become our friends because they don’t agree with the war and everything that’s happening,” she said.

Solomon MP Luke Gosling, representing Ukraine’s yellow and blue flag in a Wanderers AFLNT guernsey, attended as a show of support for the besieged country.