

No Nazis on Our Streets! 2025 Infopack

What's "new"?

While the not very successful attempt to rehabilitate the image of pro-Hitlerist general and minister of war Hristo Lukov (who advocated for the deportation of the Bulgarian hebrews and organised local structures which imitated the Hitler Jugend) is why we make the demo, there are many more and deeper reasons. First the totalitarian ideology behind Lukovmarch is based on extreme nationalism, xenophobia, racism, ultraconservative notions of family, gender and sexual identity. These are the common topics of the extreme right which rise we are witnessing both locally and globally. Such ideas are making their way into all strata of society while street attacks and violence by supporters of neo-Nazi and ultra-nationalist groups are increasing. In the Bulgarian society trapped for decades in economic and social crisis, teenagers become easy prey to the propaganda of hatred which offers them some sense of identity and community. This happens through clubs for fighting sports, football hooliganism and pseudopatriotic -mostly chauvinistic- public events.

Second, our politicians use more and more (of)the ideas mentioned above for populism, actions and making laws and policies. In the context of 8 general elections in 3 years and impossibility of the political class to build a stable project, not to speak about solving real issues, the public imagery is filled with fake enemies, such as the migrants, Roma people, "gender extremists" (locally referred to as "genders"). In order to achieve the "recognition" to be admitted to Schengen, the Bulgarian state obediently played the role of a blown guard dog at the European border with Turkey converting it into a mass grave of migrants who are beaten, pushed back illegally, left to die in the cold. The joint efforts with FRONTEX filled the morgue of the closest big city (Burgas) with unrecognised bodies while those "accommodated" in the so-called detention centers are subjected to humiliation and harassment to such extent that they prefer to request deportation themselves.

Last but not the least, internationally speaking, another year of the brutal invasion of Ukraine, the genocide in Gaza and the political persecution of Kurds in Turkey, Iraq and Syria by the Erdogan regime passed, and those are just some vivid examples of the militarisation of the world. Another year of the rising of the far right not only on the streets but in highest circles of politicians, of economic crises and more and more close and dangerous ecological disaster.

Lukovmarch and No Nazis on Our Streets!

This year, the organisers of Lukovmarch have adopted slightly different behaviour and are paying more attention to the whole campaign around the event which was inaugurated at the beginning of January and includes events such as a commemoration of the victims of the communist regime on 1 February, a walk in remembrance of the Bulgarian Legions (ultra-nationalist organisation led by Hristo Lukov) on 8 February.

Lukovmarch itself, as a nazi-fashioned torch march through the city centre, has not been authorised for the last two years. However, neo-fascist and neo-nazi groups from different countries have been allowed to gather in front of the house where Lukov lived, undisturbed.

The counter-demo No Nazis On Our Streets!, on the other hand, is slowly growing its roots in the local context. Although in the last years the attendance has been unstable in numbers, overall, during the years we have reached several hundred supporters and the event has become an annual meeting point for anti-fascists. We managed to force media and public figures to call Lukovmarch by its real name, neo-nazi gathering of groups and individuals who are shameful, dangerous and, in some cases, illegal. And our small victory is that Lukovmarch manage to gather less and less local or international participants every year.

As always we stand up against the new forms of fascism with our voices, our bodies and our ideas and we show the younger generations that fear is not the answer, unity and action are.

We appreciate international support particularly, because we believe in internationalist ideas, to begin with. Although fascims have different faces in the different territories, in the globalised world we observe several scenarios that repeat in different contexts. Only international support and organisation can make us grow stronger and oppose the raise of the enemy.

Who is General Lukov and what is Lukovmarch?

LukovMarch is a classical fascist torch-lit march with hundreds of participants that occurs in February in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, every year since 2003. The march is said to honor the memory of the lieutenant-general, politician and minister of war Hristo Lukov (1887-1943), supporter of Nazi Germany during World War II. Lukov put pressure on the Bulgarian government to send the Bulgarian Jews to death camps in Germany. The general was a leader of the ultra-nationalist organization Union of the National Bulgarian Legions, that clearly proclaims anti-semitism, xenophobia, totalitarianism and fascism. He was killed by Violeta Yakova, a woman of Jewish origin, a member of the illegal antifascist communist resistance in Sofia.

20 years ago, in 2003, the figure of Hristo Lukov was pulled out of the trash bin of history to be commemorated for the first time and the march in his honor has been happening ever since. The formal and informal groups behind the organization of Lukovmarch, along with most of the participants in the procession, represent the vast majority of the Bulgarian extreme right and neo-nazi scene: the main organiser is the Bulgarian National Union, the ultra-nationalistic party VMRO, despite the fact that they don't say it openly (VMRO was part of the parliamentary coalition "United Patriots" and part of the government until 2021), National Resistance (famous for holding homophobic demos and physical attacks on left activists and queer people), White Front, neo-nazi ultras football groups, the Bulgarian branch of the neo-nazi organization Blood And Honor and others. Increasingly, many youngsters are being involved in the organisation of the event, through the several youth organisations, developed as branches of the Bulgarian National Union, VMRO, etc. Some of the youth organisations are: Mlada gvardiya (Young Guard), Mladezhi za Bulgaria (Youngsters for Bulgaria), Obshtnost s ideal (Community with ideal)

Traditionally, members of foreign ultra-national and neo-nazi organizations take part in "Lukovmarsh" - Spain (La Falange), Germany (NPD, Die Rechte, Der III Weg), France (Terre et people), Italy (CasaPound), Austria , Croatia, Poland (Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski), Romania (Nova Dreapta), Hungary, Sweden (The Nordic Front), Russia (Russian imperial movement), etc. A large part of these organizations are banned in their home countries and use the opportunity to run their international meetings in Bulgaria, where, deliberately or not, the presence of neonazism and neofascism is belittled and ignored at the institutional level.