

What can you do now about the US threat to the world?

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I was [asked this question](#) on the blog this morning:

I agree that the power here lies with Europe to formulate a coordinated, strong response. But my question for you and other readers is: what is the most effective, tangible first step for ordinary citizens in the UK and across Europe to pressure our own governments to adopt this kind of “politics of care” strategy and stand up to these threats, rather than offering the weak platitudes we’ve seen so far? Where does the public pressure need to be focused?

This was my response (lightly re-edited for use here):

The first step is to stop treating this as theatre and start treating it as a contest over political and geographic power and resources. Current neoliberal platitudes flourish precisely because they cost nothing. A politics of care only emerges when elected politicians believe their survival depends upon it.

So public pressure has to be aimed where it bites on consent, money, and legitimacy. In practical terms, that means three early priorities.

First, force political clarity. Citizens should demand that their MPs and MEPs (where relevant) state, explicitly, whether they support practical European defensive independence, including coordinated procurement, energy security, digital resilience, and the fiscal capacity to fund it, and not just by standing with allies, but through concrete commitments. The point is to remove the option of hiding behind slogans.

Second, a focus on financial leverage is needed. Most European governments are still mentally captured by bond-market mythology. So the pressure point is the insistence that defence and resilience must not come at the cost of care, and that Europe should be willing to use the tools available, which are coordinated central bank action, public banking, capital controls if required, and the taxation of surplus wealth. In other words,

there can be no resort to austerity.

Third, organise locally but target nationally. The effective pressure does not come from online rage. It comes from coordinated constituent action, including letters, surgeries, party motions, union engagement, local press comment and letters, and relentless repetition of the same demand that security includes care. If enough marginal-seat MPs hear that their voters will not trade hospitals for missiles, the political calculus changes.

The public pressure needs to be focused on one message, which is that Europe must become power-ready without becoming cruel. That is the dividing line, I think we need to emphasise.