

## **COST OF LIVING CRISIS. IS IT REALLY RUSSIA AND UKRAINE'S FAULT?**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has had a huge impact on the cost of living crisis. Being one of the main oil and gas suppliers, the aggressor was sanctioned and not permitted to import and export goods. This affected European prices of oil and gas everywhere and gas for civilians became much more expensive due to the shortage of it.

So, with the war, Europe lost its easy access to cheap gas. But that is not the whole story. Ukraine is currently being blocked from the Black Sea by the Russian navy - now Ukraine is unable to export its wheat, sunflower seeds and fertilisers. Problem? Ukraine supplies 40% of the world's wheat. So, yes.

Although the war plays a large and current part of the crisis, the problem, in fact, stemmed from at least Covid 19. The economy was put on pause for more than a year, shortages arose and yet again prices elevated.

The cost of living crisis happened for a lot of reasons, such as Covid 19, war and even Liz Truss's mini-budget, each with their own contributions. As a nation, we are in this mess and as a community, we will rise out of it.

It is important for children to understand what is going on in their world. Although they may not be able to solve large-scale problems, the small things will still make a difference - walking or biking to school, producing less food waste and appreciating their right to an education.

Martin Luther King jr once said, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." A policy I intend to follow to the fullest.