



QUESTION MORE

⚡ US in talks over Ukraine security role – media | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

Russia & Former Soviet Union

World News

Business

India

Africa

RT Features

Analysis

Opinion

Entertainment

Shows

Projects

24 Aug, 2025 13:54 / Home / Russia & FSU

# Territory is not what Russia is interested in – Lavrov

Moscow's goal is to defend the Russians and Russian-speaking people in Ukraine from persecution, the foreign minister has said



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik/Maxim Blinov

Russia has no interest in seizing Ukrainian land but wants to protect ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking people from persecution by Kiev, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.

In an interview with NBC on Sunday, Lavrov was asked whether halting Moscow's military offensive was the only concession it was prepared to make.

*"We don't have any interest in territories. We have the biggest territory on Earth,"* Lavrov said. *"What*

*we are concerned about... is the people who live on those lands, whose ancestors lived there for centuries."*

## Top stories



**China's 'super embassy' in London sparks spy panic**

Zelensky ready to discuss territory with Putin – Kiev

Deep state entrenched in US intel community – Gabbard

Why would Putin want to meet with Zelensky?  
ANALYSIS

EU handed Ukraine €9bn of Russia's money so far this year – data

Lavrov said Moscow's goal is *"to remove any security threats to Russia coming from Ukrainian territory"* as well as *"to protect the rights of the ethnic Russian and Russian-speaking people who believe they belong to Russian culture and Russian history."*

*"The only way to protect them against this Nazi regime is to give them the right to express their will,"* he stressed.

Lavrov went on to underscore that *"Ukraine has the right to exist,"* but it should be ready to *"let people go."* He noted, however, that Ukrainian officials have consistently sought to dehumanize and portray as *"terrorists"* people in its five former regions that voted to join Russia in 2014 and 2022.

Since the Western-backed armed coup in Kiev in 2014, Ukraine has moved to sever centuries-long ties with Russia and introduced restrictions on the Russian language in the media. It has also sought to phase out Russian in schools, and impose broader curbs on its use in social life.

Kiev has also embarked on a campaign to eliminate cultural ties with Moscow, particularly through its controversial decommunization campaign, which involved renaming cities, streets, and landmarks that bore Soviet-era or Russian-linked names.

**You can share this story on social media:**

Follow RT on



[Russia-Ukraine conflict](#), [Sergey Lavrov](#)

Dear readers! Thank you for your vibrant engagement with our content and for sharing your points of view. Please note that we have switched to a new commenting system. To leave comments, you will need to register. We are working on some adjustments so if you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to [feedback@rttv.ru](mailto:feedback@rttv.ru). Please check our [commenting policy](#)

SHOW COMMENTS



**Read more:** Six takeaways from a week of Trump's Ukraine diplomacy

Trump wants to 'coax' Russia but 'pressure' Ukraine into talks – Politico

Russia still working with Western scientists despite sanctions – Putin

Epstein's accomplice claims he had no 'client list'

**Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox**

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

**RT Features**



Broken promises and fragile power: Moldova