

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; *indeed*, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

–Margaret Mead, noted American
Anthropologist



We are in a perilous Cold War II with Russia. A hot war could be sparked in an instant. Ponder our magnificent globe are we really ready to sacrifice everything? Have we forgotten what Hiroshima and Nagasaki looked like?

Over what issues are we willing to go into a war with Russia? Differences in the Middle East? A culturally divided Ukraine? If Crimea chose to rejoin Russia? If Assad stays in power? Who’s hacking whom? Under what circumstances are we ready to risk our family members ... our homes and our way of life?

Let’s ask the tough questions Who is on whose borders with 3,500 tanks and armored soldiers? Are Russians on our borders? Whose warships are nearby in whose international waters? Are Russians in ours? Who is destabilizing governments of long-term partners? Is Russia? Who is pushing war? Who is defending their borders?

Isn’t it insane to pick a fight with Russia? American citizens need to rise up and say, “*NO!*” No war with Russia — nothing they are doing (or rumored to be doing) is worth losing everything dear to us.

Travel to Russia to discuss and debate with Russians how we can exist cooperatively on the same planet.

Turn to the backside for our invitation for you to become a “citizen diplomat.”

We at the Center for Citizen Initiatives worked through the bleakest of days during Cold War I. In 1983, we (and others) tried to intervene in the first nuclear standoff between the U.S. and the USSR ... to bring understanding between the two peoples — and together we succeeded. In 2017, we are once again determined to intervene between these two countries until this “mania” for war is invalidated by both populations and leaders. Join us!

We Americans must take diplomacy into our own hands — as our citizens did in the 1980s!



CITIZENS MUST BECOME DIPLOMATS AGAIN!

You Can Have a Role in Rebuilding Trust and Relations between the U.S. and Russia

Participate in the *first-ever Mega Delegation* of up-to-100 American citizens who will travel to Russia May 10 - 30, 2017 to hold hundreds of discussions with officials and mainstream Russian citizens in 10 regions throughout Russia. We will delve into both countries' perspectives on why the U.S. relationship has deteriorated again — and what it will take to rebuild it at this late date. We will educate our constituents and formalize a set of recommendations for both governments' leaders at our trip's end.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

1. American citizens need to travel to Russia to make independent analyses of Russia and their points of view on international relations.
2. Russian citizens and public figures need to travel to American cities to share their perspectives for rebuilding our relationship.
3. Both sides need to stop Cold War II demonizations and narratives which feed fears across both nations.
4. Both countries need to rebuild citizen and VIP human connections within both populations as rapidly as possible.
5. Both need “truthful information” — rather than rumors, fake news and disinformation.

TRIP ITINERARY:

MOSCOW: Moscow meetings (presentations, panels, debates, round tables, Q&As) will be in large conference halls due to delegation size. Moscow journalists, officials supportive of Putin, politicians who oppose Putin, Duma members, alternative media sources, TV icon Vladimir Pozner and hopefully Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev, NGO leaders, CCI entrepreneurs, educators and students. Students will accompany travelers for city experiences. We will take the metro to Red Square, St. Basils and downtown Moscow — we will dine in restaurants in the shadows of the ancient Kremlin walls.

REGIONAL CITIES: Leaving Moscow, travelers will split into 10 groups going to 10 outlying Russian regional cities (all around a million population) for in-depth interactions with counterpart professionals, local officials, new political party leaders, journalists, local Rotary clubs, business owners, NGO organizers, educators, university students, schools and TV interviews. Local interpreters will be with the groups in each city. We hope to arrange home visits for all delegates in the regional cities.

ST. PETERSBURG: In St.Petersburg we will share the information and impressions learned from the 10 regional cities, collate the data, brainstorm how to use these experiences and insights to inform and educate. We will meet St.Petersburg citizens for additional informational gathering. Travelers will get an overview of Russia's famous cultural capital and its historic arts. Ballet, opera, symphony, palace tours and museum tickets can be arranged for those who desire them.

We expect this May 2017 trip will reveal the next steps to rebuild relations between Americans and Russians at many levels. It happened in the 1980s during a far more controlled USSR — and with an equally resistant and uninformed American public.

The future of the world is too important to leave up to politicians with no direct experience with Russia.

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**If you want to apply for this first-ever “mega trip with a mission,”
please email us at: sharon@ccisf.org.**