

Sting – [Russians](#) (I hope the Russians love their children too)

The face of Sting is again on posters in Paris, announcing his musical show, [The Last Ship](#), coming to town in February 2026. It is a homage to the [shipyards](#) in the town of [Wallsend](#), where he grew up. Shipbuilding stopped there in 2007. Sting was born in 1951, but he looks much younger.

He became known in the late 1970s, with the pop rock band [The Police](#). Formed in 1977, the band's style was influenced by punk, reggae and jazz. Successful songs included [Roxanne](#), [Can't Stand Losing You](#), [Message in a Bottle](#) and [Walking on the Moon](#). The group broke up in 1986.

Sting **launched** his solo career in 1985, which has been very successful. [Russians](#) was a hit, written in critique of the Cold War. He got the idea watching Russian TV, which impressed him "with the care and attention they gave to their children's programmes". The [original video](#) shows an old, powerful man remembering his **childhood**. Sting recorded a [new version](#) after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, with these words of introduction.

*I've only rarely sung this song in the many years since it was written because I never thought it would be relevant again. But **in the light of** one man's bloody and **woefully** misguided decision to invade a peaceful, unthreatening neighbour, the song is, once again, a plea for our common humanity. For the brave Ukrainians fighting against this brutal tyranny, and also the many Russians who are protesting this **outrage** despite the threat of arrest and imprisonment, we all of us love our children - stop the war.*

Shipyard: a place, an area where ships are built

Launched: to launch, to start, to set off

Childhood: the time when one is a child

Woefully: deplorably, sadly

In the light of: given, as we can now see

Outrage: a violence, very offensive act

In Europe and America there's a growing feeling of hysteria

Conditioned to respond to all the **threats**

In the rhetorical speeches of the Soviets

Mister Khrushchev said, "We will bury you"

I don't subscribe to this point of view

It'd be such an ignorant thing to do

If the Russians love their children too

How can I save my little boy from **Oppenheimer's deadly toy**?

There is no monopoly on common sense

On either side of the **political fence**

We share the same biology, regardless of ideology

Believe me when I say to you

I hope the Russians love their children too

There is **no historical precedent**

To put the words in the mouth of the president?

There's no such thing as a winnable war

It's a lie we don't believe anymore

Mister Reagan says, "We will protect you"

I don't subscribe to this point of view

Believe me when I say to you

I hope the Russians love their children too

We share the same biology, regardless of ideology

But what might save us, me and you

Is if the Russians love their children too

Threats: menaces

We will bury you. In 1956, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev told western ambassadors in Poland that "history was on [the USSR's] side. We will bury you." It may have been a poor translation from Russian, but the speech was very provocative.

I don't subscribe to this point of view: I do not agree with him

Oppenheimer's deadly toy: the atomic bomb developed under management by Oppenheimer

There is no monopoly on common sense: no one is always right and sensible

Political fence: the political barrier, the political division

No historical precedent: no previous example

To put the words in the mouth (of someone): to change what someone says, to make someone say something they did not say

There's no such thing as a winnable war: no war can be won (win, won, won)