

**Chief Authority of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill**  
**Chief Rabbi of Russia Berel Lazar**  
**Grand Mufti of Russia Rawil Gaynutdin**  
**Leaders of Buddhism and Hinduism in Russia**  
**Other representatives of faith communities in Russia**

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

We appeal to you as leaders of churches and religious communities of Russian people. Our shared religious conviction concerning the inalienable dignity of every person and sacred value of human life obliges us to resist violence and injustice.

We are called to stand up for those who are persecuted, driven from their homes, who are in life threatening situation or who are killed. True faith is a source of strength to help one's fellow human being, to show practical mercy to those in need, to strive for peace and good neighbourly relations among people.

We are shaken by the tragic consequences of the aggressive invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. We therefore ask, plead and appeal to your conscience to use all your influence as representatives of churches and religious communities to effectively and promptly work for an immediate end of war and bloodshed in Ukraine.

We ask you to actively seek ways to restore peace and justice.

We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. We ask you to invite members of your religious communities to pray together with all of us and to strive for peace. Invite them to make it clear to President Putin and other political leaders that they do not want war.

Your colleagues in the Czech Republic

President of the Czech Christian Academy Monsignor Prof. Tomáš Halík

Roman Catholic Bishop Václav Malý

Chief Rabbi of the Czech Republic Karol Sidon

Patriarch of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church Tomáš Butta

Chairman of the Muslim Community in Prague Vladimír Sáňka

Synod Senior of the Czech Brethren Evangelical Church Pavel Pokorný

First Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Church of the Brethren Bronislav Matulík

Bishop of the Unity of the Brethren Jan Klas

Superintendent of the Evangelical Methodist Church Ivana Procházková

Em. President of the Liberal Jewish Community Beit Simha Sylvie Wittmann

Chairman of the Czech-Slovak Union of the Adventist Church Mikuláš Pavlík

Secretary General of the Ecumenical Council of Churches Petr Jan Vinš

Representative of the Zen School Kwan Um Jakub Koldovský

Evangelical Pastor for Minorities Mikuláš Vymětal

Progressive Rabbi David Maxa

Professor of the Charles University in Prague Pavel Hošek

Pastor of the Church of the Brethren Pavel Černý

President of the Universal Peace Federation Juraj Lajda

Vicar General of the Apostolic Exarchate of the Greek Catholic Church in the Czech Republic Vasyl Slivocký

Special Envoy for the Holocaust, Interfaith Dialogue and Freedom of Religion Robert Řehák  
and others