



Christian Council of Norway

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Oslo, March 2nd 2022

Statement from the Christian Council of Norway on the War in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is deeply tragic and affects us all. The Russian attack on Ukraine is reprehensible. It is a violation of international law and a serious blow to the state of peace that was established in Europe in the aftermaths of the Second World War. The Christian Council of Norway shares the world community's condemnation of the invasion and attack on a peaceful and democratic country. A ceasefire must be instated quickly and be succeeded by a lasting and just peace.

Large segments of the civilian population in Ukraine have fled or sought cover. Many children, women and men suffer and are terrified, while more and more deaths are reported. The human suffering is immeasurable. The Christian Council of Norway will express our deepest sympathy with the victims of the war atrocities. We share the pain and grief with people who must flee, are injured and who have lost their loved ones.

Both Ukrainians and Russians living in Norway must be met with consideration during these difficult times. It is the regime of President Putin that remains responsible for the atrocities, not the Russian people.

Many members of the Christian Council of Norway's communities contribute to humanitarian support to Ukraine and neighbouring countries, and we encourage everyone to contribute to this by providing generous gifts to aid organizations.

We expect Norway to accept refugees from Ukraine, if required, and we encourage our member communities to welcome the refugees and take well care of them.

We believe that love is the tool that God gives us to manage unjust and to live together in righteousness. Love can open the way to reconciliation and peace, and the Church must always be willing to open up those paths.

We continue to believe in prayer and dialogue. We urge all congregations and churches to persevere in faith and prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ who is ours and the whole world's peace, he who tore down the dividing wall, enmity (Ephesians 2:14).

Churches and organizations around the world come together in prayer for Ukraine, and we pray:



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Holy Triune God, you are the Sustainer and Savior of the world. We pray for Ukraine. We ask for the insight, courage and drive of politicians and leaders to walk the path of peace and show the way to just peace. Strengthen the unity between humans, peoples and states. And be close to all the people who remain in conflict-affected areas, may they sense the solidarity of the world and your love and closeness, God. Help us all work for peace and reconciliation. Jesus Christ, our deliverer, bring peace to our troubled hearts. Bring your peace.

On behalf of the Christian Council of Norway,

Berit Hagen Agøy, Chairman of the Board

Erhard Hermansen, General Secretary