



To His Holiness Kirill
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia
Russian Orthodox Church

Brussels, 14 March 2022

Your Holiness,

It is with a heavy heart that we address you today as co-presidents of Pax Christi International, a worldwide movement committed to the cause of peace and humanity around the world.

You know Pax Christi International very well. You know that our vision and mission is to contribute to the prevention of any violent mechanism that can seriously affect human relations and cause untold suffering and forced migration of people. In this struggle, we are aware of the need to rely on a large number of people of good will, who share with us the evangelical convictions of peace and justice that Christ has left us as a heritage.

We are horrified at the sight of the suffering inflicted on our Russian and Ukrainian brothers and sisters, victims of the madness of war. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands of refugees have taken the road to exile, especially vulnerable women and children. Diplomatic efforts that are an alternative to the use of violent means are either ignored or not yet having much effect.

Can we accept this situation, that human beings die for their freedom and dignity? Can we accept that only the voices of weapons and violence resound? Can we allow the free flow of blood without trying to stop it? Pax Christi International respectfully and fraternally implores you to make an urgent appeal to the Russian authorities to immediately cease hostilities against the Ukrainian people. We invite you to show genuine goodwill in promoting diplomatic solutions based on dialogue, the pursuit of the common good and respect for international law.

We are convinced that the Church can and must be a creative force for peace. In this time of Lent, when Christians proclaim the same Gospel of the Risen One and pray to the same God of peace and not of war; this is the apt opportunity to exemplify this common bond.

May we in freedom and peace once again this year, with soul and joy in our hearts proclaim: "Christ is risen - Yes, he is truly risen."

Respectfully in our Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Stenger".

Bishop Marc Stenger
Bishop Emeritus of Troyes, France
Co-President Pax Christi International

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr Teresia Wamuyu".

Sr Teresia Wamuyu Wachira (IBVM)
Kenya
Co-President of Pax Christi International