



Peacemakers in Action Network Statement Against Russian Invasion of Ukraine: A Call to Religious Actors & Leaders

With one voice, the *Peacemakers in Action Network* calls on religious leaders and faithful believers in Russia, Ukraine, and across the world to stand up for peace, for the safeguarding of all human lives, and for the right of every individual to live peacefully without trauma or insecurity. We stand in solidarity with those who have condemned the ongoing cruelty and destruction perpetrated by the Russian military in Ukraine. We call on people of all faiths to actively promote an immediate end to the bloodshed and the creation of humanitarian corridors to enable Ukrainian civilians to flee and to receive food, clothing, and medicine. We call for an international investigation into the atrocities and war crimes committed against civilians. Finally, we call for a decrease in nuclear tensions, whether through weapons of mass destruction or damage to power plants.

We remind religious actors and leaders of their prophetic vocation to prioritize human life, to stand firmly against violence, to address the underlying causes of conflict, and to serve as a moral compass for all members of society. As an interreligious and multifaith *Network*, we implore all religious leaders to speak and act in nonpartisan, prophetic, and pastoral ways in order to promote justice and healing.

As Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists, we offer the following teachings from our faith traditions. May they serve as guideposts for the religious actors and leaders in Russia, Ukraine, and surrounding areas to remind them of their Divine calling to pursue peace.

[Psalms 34:14 \(cf. I Peter 3:11\)](#)

*Desist from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.*

[Dhammapada, Verse 270](#)

*One is not called noble who harms living beings.
By not harming living beings one is called noble.*

Al-Quran 2:224

*Do not make Allah's name an excuse in your oaths against doing good
or acting rightly or making peace between persons.*

Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3

*And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

It is our mission to uphold these universal values, to provide refuge to those who need it, and to model the African concept of Ubuntu: *I am because we are.*

The Peacemakers in Action Network

José “Chencho” Alas – El Salvador
Dr. Ephraim Isaac – Ethiopia
Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge - South Africa
Dr. Yehezkel Landau – Israel/USA
Rev. Canon Andrew White - England
Ricardo Esquivia Ballestas - Colombia
Dr. William Lowrey – South Sudan/USA

Friar Ivo Markovic – Bosnia & Herzegovina
Pastor James Movel Wuye – Nigeria
Dr. Sakena Yacoobi - Afghanistan
Rev. Jacklevyn Manuputty - Indonesia
Azhar Hussain - Pakistan/USA
Dr. Sarah AK Ahmed - Iraq/Canada
Hind Aboud Kabawat - Syria

About the Peacemakers in Action Network

We are Tanenbaum's *Peacemakers in Action Network*: Religiously motivated peace activists from armed conflicts across the world and recipients of the *Peacemakers in Action Award*. Spanning different religions, beliefs, and conflicts, we have experienced violence and reconciliation. We know the pain of loss, the destruction engendered by hatred, and the possibilities of peace.

The *Peacemakers in Action Network* is dedicated to conflict transformation and reconciliation. Our vision is to build a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. As individuals who work to resolve armed conflict, we stand together and raise our collective voice to denounce developments that threaten peace and human security.