

## **Statement by the General Assembly of the ACK on the war in Ukraine**

The General Assembly of the Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) condemns the invasion of Ukraine, which contravenes international law, and the current war. Spreading war and suffering stands in contradiction to the confession of Jesus Christ. There is nothing that can justify such violence. The message of Jesus Christ is binding for all of us: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9).

We call upon all brothers and sisters in the faith to bear witness to justice, peace and reconciliation in the spirit of Jesus Christ which unites us. No leaders of Christian churches should misuse the Gospel of Jesus Christ in conflicts over political interests. We are appalled to see that this is happening.

We grieve with those who suffer and mourn the victims of the war in Ukraine. At the same time, we reject any form of stigmatisation of people of Russian origin as well as attacks against them and their places of worship.

As churches linked together worldwide, we have learned to identify apparently irreconcilable differences and to respect each other. With our ecumenical consultations, we want to continue to make our contribution for the sustainable promotion of peace.

We are grateful that so much help is being offered in Germany and all over the world – irrespective of religion or denomination. We are especially glad that many projects are evolving in ecumenical fellowship.

Our voices as Christians are raised jointly in prayer. We pray for spiritual power and creative ideas for those responsible for reconciliation. We trust in the power of prayer for peace. We call all war-mongers to repentance. The war must cease immediately!

We confess Jesus Christ. He is our peace (Eph 2:14).

ACK General Assembly, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, 17 March 2022