



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS
Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation
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No to War in Ukraine: Pursue Integral Peace and Human Security

WASHINGTON, DC – The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joins people around the world in praying for peace in Ukraine. As always, war represents a deadly failure by world leaders to build just peace and promote integral human security.

We applaud the Biden administration's ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis through diplomacy. We condemn the use of violence to wage conflict, and urge the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, the United States and all NATO member states to promote nonviolent alternatives to war. We call on leaders to prioritize protecting human life by seeking a swift cessation of hostilities, monitoring the impact of sanctions to ensure they do not harm civilians, and allowing aid to flow to those in need.

We also call on world leaders to address the root causes of violent conflict by committing to three priorities:

- investing in the development of renewable energy in order to leave behind conflicts driven by oil and gas needs;
- decreasing the risk of nuclear war by enacting policies such as No First Use and fulfilling our treaty obligations to advance nuclear disarmament; and
- embracing new models of security, rooted not in deterrence by threats and arms sales, but in dialogue, mutual understanding and the common good.

Over a century ago, Pope Benedict XV warned against the “useless slaughter” of war. Today, Pope Francis and the bishops of Ukraine echo his warning. We stand with them in saying that war is always a failure of humanity. Maryknoll missionaries serving around the world have witnessed again and again the devastating consequences of war, in which the poor, the infirm, and the marginalized are always the first victims. And so, it is with heavy hearts and renewed urgency that we recall once again the exhortation of Pope Pius VI to the United Nations, so often repeated by the church and unheeded by political leaders: “No more war, war never again.”

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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