**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*WCC ECHOS Commission on Youth in the Ecumenical Movement*

*prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation between Ukraine and Russia*

The pursuit of peace is at the core of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We hold in our prayers the people of Ukraine and Russia who are impacted by this conflict.

God of justice and peace,

 ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the people of Ukraine.

We lament the violence that has come to their country.

We pray for the young people, separated families, for those who are refugees of the war in foreign countries and for those who are travelling to safety.

We pray for the children and women who are vulnerable to gender based violence and human trafficking.

We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer.

We plead for an end to violence and aggression in their land.

God of justice and peace,

 ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the people of Russia, and for the Russians living in the diaspora.

We give thanks for the peacemakers.

We ask for safety to those who raise their voice for justice and peace.

We pray for those who are affected by foreign sanctions and war, especially young people who continue to be impacted.

We pray for those Russians and Russian speakers who are targets of harassment due to the ongoing conflict.

God of justice and peace,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for leaders around the world.

We seek wisdom for those who are making life and death decisions about how to respond to violence and threats of violence.

We pray for a respectful dialogue that heals and reconciles the historical tensions with the West that have contributed to the worsening of the relationship between the neighbouring countries of Russia and Ukraine.

We pray that world leaders might work for an end to the military conflict and for the establishing of a radical peace which is not only the absence of armed conflicts but the full guarantee of human rights, human dignity and wellbeing of all people and Creation.

God of justice and peace,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for aid workers, volunteers and journalists.

We give thanks for the proactive response of churches to work in situations of war and unrest in order to meet the needs of others.

We also give thanks for those who have shown hospitality by opening their homes and hearts for the Ukrainian people. We pray that equal hospitality be shown to victims of other conflicts as well.

We ask for safety, wisdom and compassion for all working, to alleviate suffering and heal the wounded.

We pray for journalists and media organisations reporting the situation in Ukraine and Russia, may they report truthfully and compassionately.

God of justice and peace,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace and reconciliation.

We lament all violence and conflicts around the world that are being overshadowed and forgotten.

We plead for the ceasing of war and the establishment of peace with justice for all nations.

We pray that you, Almighty, might give us a desire for peace and a willingness to work, and hope, and pray each day for a radical peace.

God of justice and peace,

**Hear our prayer.**

Amen.