



Pax Christi Scotland

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[www.paxchristiscotland.org.uk](http://www.paxchristiscotland.org.uk)

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18.03.2022

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

Your Holiness

We reach out to you as Sisters and Brothers in Christ with our Brothers and Sisters in the wider faith community in Scotland and do so with hearts committed to Peace for the whole human family. Each signatory to this letter has exercised leadership in the religious communities of Scotland. We have therefore shared the burden of leadership in times of deep internal and external turmoil and know its cost.

Our hearts are wounded by the scenes of death and destruction from war and invasion that we encounter daily and beseech you to use your power and authority to end the war and suffering in Ukraine by advocating for Peace with the leadership of your nation.

The ongoing cost in civilian casualties and the added threat to world peace that is occurring forces us without any political agenda to ask that you protect all those involved and seek to avoid further impact upon the people of Ukraine.

We believe that this war is illegal and affords no comparison nor fulfills any historic criteria for military action within the Christian tradition, nor the other great faiths in the human family. The only way forward is a ceasefire that returns those in conflict to previous boundaries, allowing for a permanent negotiation leading to a sustainable lasting peace.

The challenges and responses faced by courageous religious leaders in the past have shown the viability of moving combatants to seek peace with the same urgency as war. The Christian family in Scotland, with the wider family of faith communities in our nation, believes this is a moment when your leadership can serve all of humanity. By calling for an end to the violence, you will reaffirm the belief in the sacred image of God in all people, and nurture the reality of God's healing promise for all victims of this war.

In prayer we have discerned a deep need to communicate our fears and hopes that you reconsider your support of this war and end the unnecessary

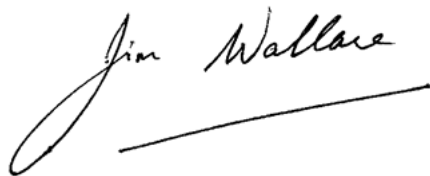
suffering and destruction it has unleashed in Ukraine, and the insecurity it has produced in global relations among the nations.

As leader of the Church in Moscow and all Russia, you as Patriarch can give all those involved in this war and peoples all around the world the deepest hope for a peaceful solution to this conflict. At this moment, as one human family, we hold you in prayer that you might desist from your current position and unite your voice with those calling for peace across the world.

Respectfully yours as sisters and brothers of faith

**Marian Pallister**, Pax Christi Scotland Chair

**Right Reverend Brian McGee**, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles & Chair of the Scottish Bishops' Conference Interreligious Dialogue Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC**, Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

**Most Reverend Doctor Mark J Strange** Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness & Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

**Jill Kent**, Chair of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Scottish Bishops' Conference

**David Stewart SJ**, Edinburgh Jesuit Centre, National J&P Commission.

**Philip Mendelsohn**, Chair Interfaith Glasgow

**Ravinder Kaur Nijjar**, Sikh Representative on Scottish Religious Leaders Forum, Advisor Sikhs in Scotland

**Trishna Singh OBE**, Director, Sikh Sanjog and Punjabi Junction Social Enterprise Project

**Srihari Vallabhajousula**, the Hindu Temple of Scotland

**Professor Joe Goldblatt**, Chair of Edinburgh Interfaith Association

**Revd. Paul Whittle**, Moderator, The United Reformed Church, National Synod of Scotland

**Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche**, Abbot of Samye Ling Tibetan Centre

**Dr Susan D Siegel**, Chair of Garnethill Synagogue