

Let justice roll down like water and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream
(Amos 5:24)

European Consultation on just peace

Artwork © Ukrainian Bible Society



9-11 December 2024, Warsaw

Hotel Gromada, Plac Powstańców Warszawy 2, 00-030 Warsaw

#JustPeace2024

oikoumene
Polska Rada
Ekumeniczna



MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2024

Registration

14:00 - 14:20

Opening prayer

Opening Prayer: Polish Ecumenical Council

14:20 - 14:35

Welcome and greetings

Moderator: **Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach**, CEC General Secretary
H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, CEC President
Bishop Andrzej Malicki, President of the Polish Ecumenical Council

14:35 - 14:45

Pathways to Peace Initiative and rationale of the Consultation

Ms Katerina Pekridou, CEC Programme Officer for Theology & Studies

14:45 - 15:05

Just peace in the Bible

Speaker: **Prof. Neal Blough**, member of Church and Peace - The European Ecumenical Peace Network

FROM JUST WAR TO JUST PEACE

Moderator: **Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter**, CEC Vice-President

15:05 - 16:05

Development of the concept of just peace in international relations

Speaker: **PD Dr Christine Schliesser**, Protestant Church in Switzerland / Director of

Studies at the Center for Faith & Society at Fribourg University.

16:05 - 17:05

Development of the concept of just peace within the ecumenical movement

Speaker: **Prof. Dr Fernando Enns**, Chair in peace theology and ethics at the Free University of Amsterdam, Director of the Amsterdam Center for Religion, Peace & Justice Studies / endowed professor of Theology of Peace Churches at the University of Hamburg.

17:00 - 18:00

Group discussions (Rooms Malwa/Plenary, Róża & Borówka)

18:00 - 18:20

Evening Prayer led by Commissioner **Vibeke Krommenhoek**, The Salvation Army

18:20

Dinner

20:00

Evening reception

TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024

08:30 - 08:50

Morning prayer led by **Rev. Michael Starck**, Evangelical Church of Baden (EKD)

08:50 - 09:30

Report from the groups in plenary and discussion

09:30 - 10:00

Coffee break

THE RUSSIAN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE AS A CHALLENGE TO JUST PEACE

10:00 - 11:30

The right to protect and the right of self-defence: Panel with Ukrainian speakers

Moderator: **OKR i.R. Antje Heider-Rottwilm**, Chair, Church and Peace – The European Ecumenical Peace Network

Speakers:

His Beatitude Epiphaniy, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Bishop Sándor Zán Fábrián, Head of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine

Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets, Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society / Head of external relations of the Ukrainian Evangelical Church

Rev. Ihor Bandura, Baptist Union of Ukraine

Rev. Dr Roman Fihas, Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

11:30 - 13:00

The right to protect and the right of self-defence: Panel with CEC member churches

Moderator: **Rev. Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner**, President, Globethics Foundation

Speakers:

Rev. Sabine Müller-Langsdorf, Protestant Church in Germany

Rev. Dr László Gonda, Reformed Church in Hungary

H.E. Metropolitan Gregorios of Peristeri, Church of Greece

Rev. Riikka Porkola, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Bishop Peter Mihoč, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30-15:15

Group discussion (Rooms Malwa/Plenary, Róza & Borówka)

15:15-16:00

Reports from groups

16:00-16:30

Coffee break

16:30-18:00

Instrumentalisation and weaponisation of religion during war

Moderator: **Prof. Andrii Smyrnov**, Orthodox Church of Ukraine / National University of Ostroh Academy

Speakers:

Dr Oleksandr Geychenko, Baptist Union of Ukraine

Rev. Dr Andriy Dudchenko, Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Prof. Dr Sergii Bortnyk, Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr Letizia Tomassone, Waldensian Church in Italy

Prof. Dr Regina Elsner, University of Münster / Pro Oriente / KonKoop Berlin

18:00-19:00

A pilgrimage of justice, reconciliation and unity, World Council of Churches

Moderator: **Ms Katerina Pekridou**, Programme Officer for Theology & Studies, CEC

Speaker:

Mr Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches

19:00-19:20

Evening prayer led by **Rev. Luca Barrato**, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI)

19:20

Dinner

WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024

09:00-09:20

Morning prayer

TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP: AFFIRMING HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

09:20-10:30

The 'Reconciliation in Europe' project – the task of the Churches in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Germany

Moderator: **Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter**, CEC Vice-President

Speakers:

Rev. Dr Grzegorz Giemza, Director, Polish Ecumenical Council

Bishop Pavlo Shvarts, Head of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine

Rev. Dr Ihor Shaban, Chairman of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Affairs, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-12:30

Just Peace and Human rights

Moderator: **Ms Júlia Berecz**, Reformed Church in Hungary / Reformed Church in Transcarpathia

Speakers:

Ms Natallia Vasilevich, Ecumenical Patriarchate / University of Bonn

Dr Lidiya Lozova, Orthodox Church of Ukraine / University of Exeter

Rev. Dr Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Ms Riina Nguyen, Executive Director, Orthodox Church Aid and Missions Filantropia, Orthodox Church of Finland

Mr Oleksandr Zaiets, Board Chairman of the Institute of Religious Freedom, Kyiv, Ukraine

12:30-13:00

Report from the listener's group

Conclusions: **H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain**, CEC President

13:00-13:20

Closing prayer

13:20

Lunch and departures

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PATHWAYS TO PEACE STEERING GROUP MEMBERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



Rev. Ihor Bandura, Baptist Union of Ukraine

Rev. Ihor Bandura is Vice-President for International Affairs of the Baptist Union of Ukraine.

A pastor and missiologist, he is expert in the field of global church partnerships and missions. He has been a leading voice on issues concerning the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the role of the Church in the time of war. Rev. Bandura represents a grassroots network of more than 2,000 churches across Ukraine, where local pastors and congregations help their neighbours daily, as relentless missile attacks continue to destroy people's lives. Together with his wife, Anna, they enjoy their family, which includes four kids and two recently born grandchildren.



Ms Júlia Berecz, Reformed Church in Hungary / Reformed Church in Transcarpathia

Júlia Berecz is Deputy Ecumenical Officer of the Reformed Church in Hungary since March 2023. Previously, she worked in the public

administration sector in Hungary, in the fields of international economical, defense and security cooperation. She studied international relations and management, and also holds an MA in Theology. She has just recently started her formation at one of the seminaries of the Reformed Church in Hungary. She is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering group, where she represents both her Church and the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia.



Prof. Neal Blough, member of Church and Peace – The European Ecumenical Peace Network

Neal Blough is a bi-national Franco-American, living in Paris. He is married and a father with three adult children and three grandchildren. He is former Director of the Paris Mennonite Centre and professor emeritus of church history (Faculté Libre de Théologie Évangélique, Vaux sur Seine). He taught for many years at the Institute for Ecumenical studies (ISEO) at the Catholic University of Paris and still teaches at the Institut de théologie œcuménique in Rabat, Morocco. He also served on the pastoral team of two

Mennonite congregations in Paris and was a participant in the international dialogue between Catholics and Mennonites. He earned a ThD at the Protestant Theological Faculty of the University of Strasbourg and his habilitation from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. His research and teaching interests include the relationship between Christology and a theology of peace, as well as the numerous justifications of violence by the Church throughout its history and its efforts at peace-making. His publications mainly concern 16th century Anabaptist theology and its relationship to other Reformation movements and medieval Catholicism.



Prof. Dr Sergii Bortnyk, Kyiv Theological Academy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Dr Sergii Bortnyk has been Associate Professor at the Kyiv Theological Academy since 2014. His courses include modern Orthodox theological thought, Catholic theology, Dogmatic teaching of Protestant confessions (Master level), and interconfessional relationships in Ukraine, and the theology of Metropolitan John Zizioulas (doctoral level). Since July 2016 he is the Head of the Charitable foundation 'Academic initiative'. In 1998 he earned a 'Master of international information, translator from English'. From

1996-2003 he studied Orthodox theology at the seminars of Kyiv, Saint Petersburg and Odessa earning a Diploma in Orthodox theology. Between 1999-2004 he taught at the theological college of Sumy and the Institute for advanced pedagogical education, while from 2002-2004 he served as press secretary of the Sumy eparchy and a representative of the Sumy eparchy to state educational institutions. From 2007-2014 he studied at the theological faculty of Heidelberg University, where he earned the diploma of Master of Arts in theological research (2010) and the diploma of Doctor of theology defending a thesis on 'Person and communion. Theology of John Zizioulas in systematic consideration'.



Rev. Dr Andriy Dudchenko, Senior Lecturer at the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy, Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Andriy Dudchenko, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer at the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy and Archpriest of the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Saviour of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) in Kyiv. He was born in Eastern Ukraine, Lugansk region (Donbass). In 1997 he graduated from the Kyiv Theological Seminary and was ordained priest in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). In 2018, af-

ter the Council of Unification, he joined the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

He graduated from the Kyiv Theological Academy in 2001 and worked as an editor in publishing and media projects. In 2017 he graduated from the Dragomanov National Pedagogical University, earning a Master in Religious Studies. In 2020 he completed his doctoral thesis titled 'Liturgical realism in the theology of Alexander Schmemmann'. He teaches History of Liturgy, Liturgical Theology, Theory and History of Non-Christian Religion. He serves as secretary of the Theological and Liturgical Commission of the OCU, and editor-in-chief of the journal Church and Society. His publications include: Confession and Communion: Practical Advices (2016), A Guide to the Divine Liturgy (2016), A Prayer Book of the Orthodox Faithful (2017), Eucharist: Its Past, Present and the Eternal (2018), Liturgical Realism (in press).



Prof. Dr Regina Elsner,
University of Muenster
/ Pro Oriente / KonKoop
Berlin

Prof. Regina Elsner is a Catholic theologian, Professor for Eastern Church Studies and Ecumenical Theology at the University of Münster, and affiliated researcher at the Center for Eastern Europe and International Studies ZOiS. From 1998-2005, she studied Catholic Theology in Berlin and Mün-

ster. Afterwards, she worked until 2010 as a project coordinator for Caritas Russia in St. Petersburg. From 2010-2013, she was a research associate at the Ecumenical Institute of the University of Münster.

Prof. Elsner is investigating the dynamics of Orthodox social ethics in Eastern Europe since the dissolution of the Soviet Union with a special focus on peace ethics and gender-related topics. She is co-speaker of the section for religion of the German Association for East European Studies, and a member of the PRO ORIENTE Steering Committee for the Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue, where she moderates the subgroup on the healing of wounded memories.

In addition, Prof. Elsner is engaged in KonKoop, a research network looking at conflict and cooperation in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War. There she studies the impact of Orthodox concepts of peace and conflict on the societies in Eastern Europe (B4: Orthodoxy and Social Peace - KonKoop). Nowhere else in the world have there been so many wars of secession – some of them unresolved to this day – and newly founded states. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is the latest shocking example. The research network examines various conflict constellations and dynamics of cooperation in Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. One of the investigated questions is the role ethnic or religious

identities and economic interests play in the emergence or resolution of conflicts.



Prof. Dr Fernando Enns,
Chair in (peace-) theology
and ethics at Free
University Amsterdam
and endowed professor
of Theology of Peace

Churches at the University of Hamburg

Fernando Enns holds the chair in (peace-) theology and ethics at the Free University Amsterdam/The Netherlands, where he is also Director of the Amsterdam Center for Religion, Peace & Justice Studies. He also has an endowed professorship in 'Theology of Peace Churches' at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

Enns was born in Curitiba, Brazil and belongs to the Historic Peace Church of the Mennonites, where he is ordained, and serves as Vice-Chair of the Association of Mennonite Congregations in Germany. He has been a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) since 1998, and has served several WCC Commissions (Decade to Overcome Violence 2000-2010, Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace 2013-2023, a.o.).

Among his numerous publications, special mention should be made of: The Peace Church and the Ecumenical Community. Ecclesiology and the Ethics of Nonviolence. Co-published by Kitchener/Ontario: Pandora Press and Geneva: WCC publica-

tions 2007, and Ecumenism and Peace: From Theory and Practice to Pilgrimage and Companionship. Geneva: Gelassenheit Publications and WCC Publications 2022.



His Beatitude Epiphaniy,
Metropolitan of Kyiv and
All Ukraine, Primate of
the Orthodox Church of
Ukraine

His Beatitude Epiphaniy (Dumenko) graduated from the Kyiv Theological Academy in 2003. From 2006-2007 he studied at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens at the Faculty of Philosophy, and in 2012 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Theology. In 2008 he was appointed governor of St. Michael's Vydubychi monastery in Kyiv, and two years later he was appointed rector of the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy and a ruling bishop of the Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate.

In 2013 he was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan of Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky and Bila Tserkva and was appointed patriarchal governor with the rights of the Diocesan bishop. On December 15, 2018, the Unification Council elected Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Pereyaslav and Bila Tserkva as the new Primate the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. In 2019 he was presented with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.



Bishop Sándor Zán-Fábián, Head of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine

Bishop Sándor Zán-Fábián has served as the pastor of

the Reformed Parish of Mezővári in Ukraine for the last 27 years. He has been the Bishop of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia since 2006. In 2017, Bishop Zán-Fábián served as the chair of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations. Since 2020, Zán-Fábián chairs the Council of Churches in Transcarpathia.



Rev. Dr Roman Fihás, Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

Rev. Dr. Roman Fihás is the Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. He holds a PhD in Theology, *Sacrae Theologiae* Doctor in Eastern Churches Studies, completed at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome.

A priest of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Dr Fihás is a lecturer at the Department of Theology at the Theology Faculty of the Ukrainian Catholic University. His academic interests include Ecclesiology, Ecumenism, and Dogmatic Theology.



Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, General Secretary, Conference of European Churches

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach is the General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). He studied Protestant theology in Heidelberg, Tübingen, and Bonn. He previously served as Executive Secretary and Head of the Northern and Western Europe Desk, Protestant Church in Germany (EKD), Churchwide Office in Hanover. Prior to that appointment, he served as a pastor with the Protestant Church of Bad Münstereifel, Protestant Church in Rhineland and Troisdorf, Evangelical Church in Rhineland, North Rhine-Westphalia, fostering ecumenical relations with other Churches. Previously, Rev. Fischbach had served as CEC Executive Secretary for Employment and Social Issues, seconded by the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) working on churches' dialogue with the EU. In addition, he was Executive Secretary on European policies in the Representation of the Protestant Churches in North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf, Germany, and Special Curate in the Representation of the EKD to the EU.

He is the Rector of Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine, where he formerly served as senior librarian and Academic Dean. From 2020-2022, Dr Geychenko served as the Vice-President of the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association. Dr Geychenko has served on multiple editorial boards, including the Journal of European Baptist Studies and the Slavic Bible Commentary (E-AAA, 2016), and is currently the issuing editor of Theological Reflections: Eastern European Journal of Theology. He has published extensively in the areas of Baptist theology and ecclesiology. He is married, and with his wife Tetiana they have two adult daughters.



Dr Oleksandr Geychenko, Rector of Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine

Oleksandr Geychenko holds a PhD from the University of St Andrews, UK. He is the Rector of Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine, where he formerly served as senior librarian and Academic Dean. From 2020-2022, Dr Geychenko served as the Vice-President of the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association. Dr Geychenko has served on multiple editorial boards, including the Journal of European Baptist Studies and the Slavic Bible Commentary (E-AAA, 2016), and is currently the issuing editor of Theological Reflections: Eastern European Journal of Theology. He has published extensively in the areas of Baptist theology and ecclesiology. He is married, and with his wife Tetiana they have two adult daughters.

Dr Giemza is President and supervisor of the Society of Counseling and Pastoral Psychology in Poland, Vice-President of the Association of Pastors and Catechists of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, as well as Chairman of the Scientific Council of this association. In addition, he is a Board member of the Polish Society for Spiritual Care in Medicine, and a member of the Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling. He is a Knight of Honour of the 'Bailiwick of Brandenburg of the Chivalric Order of Saint John'. From 1998-2017 he was Director of the Center for Mission and Evangelization, and in the period from 2002-2015, he was National Youth Chaplain of the Evangelical Augsburg Church. Rev. Dr Giemza is married, and has three adult children and two grandchildren.



Rev. Dr Grzegorz Giemza, Director, Polish Ecumenical Council

Dr Grzegorz Stefan Giemza was born in Katowice, Poland. He is an Evangelical pastor and the Director of the Polish Ecumenical Council. In the period from 2012-2017, he served as President of the Synod of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland.

Dr Giemza is President and supervisor of the Society of Counseling and Pastoral Psychology in Poland, Vice-President of the Association of Pastors and Catechists of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, as well as Chairman of the Scientific Council of this association. In addition, he is a Board member of the Polish Society for Spiritual Care in Medicine, and a member of the Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling. He is a Knight of Honour of the 'Bailiwick of Brandenburg of the Chivalric Order of Saint John'. From 1998-2017 he was Director of the Center for Mission and Evangelization, and in the period from 2002-2015, he was National Youth Chaplain of the Evangelical Augsburg Church. Rev. Dr Giemza is married, and has three adult children and two grandchildren.

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Rev. Prof. Dr László Gonda, Ecumenical Officer of the Transtibiscan Church District of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Rev. Prof. Dr László Gonda is the Ecumenical Officer of the Transtibiscan Church District of the Reformed Church in Hungary, and Associate Professor at the Debrecen Reformed Theological University. He studied at the Debrecen Reformed

He studied at the Debrecen Reformed

Theological Academy and the Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken, in Kampen, the Netherlands, as well as the Universiteit Utrecht, where he completed a PhD in Theology in 2008.

His research interests include theology of Christian mission, international church relations, studies in World Christianity, international missionary work, and international Christian mission.

Rev. Dr Gonda was ordained pastor in the Reformed Church of Hungary in 1997. Since then he has held various positions within the Church and the academia. He is member of a variety of academic societies and Church-related bodies, such as the International Association of Missiology (IAMS), the Central and Eastern European Missiological Society (CEEAMS), the Hungarian Society of Religious Studies, the Ecumenical Advisory Board of the Reformed Church of Hungary, and the editorial board of the journal *Mission Studies*.



His Eminence Metropolitan Gregorios of Peristeri, Church of Greece

His Eminence Gregorios (Papatomas) was elected Metropolitan of Peristeri in 2021. He is Professor of Theology, Canon Law, and Comparative Religion and Ethnology. A graduate of the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Law of the University

of Athens, from 1988-1997 he served as a teacher in secondary education, while he carried out postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral studies in Paris. He is Professor at the Theology Department of the University of Athens, the Orthodox Theological Institute Saint-Serge in Paris and the European Inter-university Doctoral Studies Programme ERASMUS GRATIANUS (Paris XI), as well as Lecturer at the Jean Monnet Law School of the University of Paris XI. He is the author of 25 books and 120 articles in the above-mentioned academic fields.

He became a monk and was ordained a deacon and presbyter in 1998 serving at the Metropolis of Polyani and Kilkis (1998-1999 and 2009-2010). He also served at the Metropolis of France (1999-2005), as well as the Orthodox Church of Estonia (2005-2009), where became archpriest and schoolmaster at the Orthodox Theological Institute Saint Plato in Tallinn. Since 2010, he has served as preacher at the Archdiocese of Athens.



OKR i.R. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Chair, Church and Peace – The European Ecumenical Peace Network

Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, OKRin i.R., was Head of the Europe Department of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) from 1997-2008. During

that time, she was a member of the Central Committee of CEC and co-moderator of the Church and Society Commission. Currently, she is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.

From 2008-2014, as a member of the ecumenical community Laurentiuskonvent, she co-founded and chaired the Ecumenical Forum HafenCity in Hamburg. She is married, and has three children and six grandchildren.

Since 2009 she has been Chair of Church and Peace (C&P), the European Peace Church Network of historic peace churches, congregations, peace organisations and individuals. C&P includes the project 'RE-Thinking security' (www.sicherheitneudenken.de). It is an organisation in partnership with CEC and an International Ecumenical Organisation (IEO) in working relationship with the WCC.

C&P is committed to biblically based non-violence as a challenge to the churches and European politics, non-violent conflict transformation, as a daily practice and political goal and, last but not least, a theology and spirituality of non-violence.



Rev. Dr Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Jonas Adelin Jørgensen earned a PhD in Systematic Theology at the University of Copen-

hagen in 2007. Since 2019, he has been serving as an Academic Secretary at the Interchurch Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark (Folkekirken), where he was ordained in 2008.

He is the author of more than 20 peer-reviewed international research articles, editor of 10 books, and author of over 100 popular articles on global Christianity, ecumenism and intercultural theology.

From 2007-2013 Jørgensen served as Commissioner of the World Council of Churches' (WCC) Commission for World Mission and Evangelism. Since January 2024, he has been serving as special advisor on Freedom of Religion and Belief for the WCC. He is also a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.



Dr Lidiya Lozova, Orthodox Church of Ukraine / University of Exeter

Dr Lidiya Lozova is a post-doctoral Research Associate at the Theology and Religion Department of the University of Exeter. Her current research project concerns the social ethos of icons and

religious imagery, specifically those that appear during wartime in Ukraine. Her areas of academic interest include iconography, Orthodox social ethics, the encounter between tradition and modernity, and reli-

gious peacebuilding.

In 2015 she defended her doctoral thesis in History and Theory of Culture at the Modern Art Research Institute of the National Academy of Art of Ukraine. Her dissertation examined the theological dimension of the Leningrad School of Avantgarde Art from the 1920s-1960s. Earlier, she had completed her Bachelor's and two Master's degrees in cultural studies and intercultural humanities at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Jacobs University of Bremen, Germany, respectively. For twelve years she was a researcher at the European Humanities Research Centre of the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and a book translator, editor, and project manager at the Spirit and Letter Research and Publishing Association in Kyiv. From 2016-2022 she also coordinated the Dialogue in Action project, aimed at developing the culture of dialogue in Ukraine involving civic and faith-based communities.



**Bishop Andrzej Malicki,
President of the Polish
Ecumenical Council**

Bishop Andrzej Malicki was in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

He graduated in Theology from the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw and the Jan Łaski Higher Theological Seminary in Warsaw.

In 1988, he was ordained a deacon, and in 1991 a presbyter of the Methodist Church

in Poland. From 1985-1997 he served as pastor of the Methodist parish in Kielce, and from 1997-2013 he served in Katowice. During his time in Katowice, he was involved in the work of the Silesian Branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council and served as Secretary of the Board of the local Branch.

In 2013, he was elected as Superintendent of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Poland. In 2016, while already being Head of the Church, he joined the board of the Polish Ecumenical Council as a Secretary.

As Head of the Evangelical Methodist Church, Bishop Malicki was a signatory to several documents of ecumenical dialogue, such as the Appeal of the Churches in Poland to respect and celebrate Sundays, the Message of the Churches in Poland regarding refugees, and the Message of the Churches on the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence. Since 2017, he has been the President of the Bible Society in Poland.

Bishop Malicki sits on the Joint Commission of Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Evangelical Methodist Church.

He has been married to Małgorzata since 1988, with whom he has two sons.



**Bishop Peter Mihoč,
Evangelical Church
of the Augsburg
Confession in Slovakia**

Bishop Peter Mihoč is an Evangelical pastor, editor-in-chief of the magazine *Evanjelický*

Východ and the weekly *Evanjelický posol spod Tatier*. He is married to Emília and they have three children.

After he completed his secondary education in Prešov (1993-1997), he pursued undergraduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of Bratislava at the Department for Evangelical Theology (1997-2002). From 2004-2004 he served as chaplain at Bardejov, and from 2004-2009 he served as pastor at Liptovský Hrádok Dovalovo.

From 2009-2019 he was Secretary of the Bishop of Eastern district Evangelical Church in Slovakia. In 2020 he became Bishop of the Eastern district of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECAV).

Since February 2022 he has been the Chief Coordinator of Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine of the ECAV. Among other roles, he serves as member of the ECAV Faith Committee, Vice-President of the Evangelical Parish Association in Slovakia, and is engaged in counseling and pastoral work with spouses and families.



**Rev. Sabine
Müller-Langsdorf,
Protestant Church
in Germany**

Rev. Sabine Müller-Langsdorf is responsible for

peace work at the Zentrum Oekumene of the regional churches of Hesse-Nassau and Kurhessen-Waldeck. She is the Deputy Director of the centre.

Over the years, she has gained a broad insight into the ethical challenges of peace for church action. Civil wars and terrorism are changing the images of war and peace. The flight of thousands of people from war challenges the work of churches in disaster relief and ecumenical solidarity. Russia's war against Ukraine has led to a new discussion about just peace in Germany and has put the idea of pacifism, following in the steps of Jesus, to the test. Increasing nationalism, populism and autocratic systems in Europe challenge the Church to stand up for human dignity, democracy and freedom.

Müller-Langsdorf's tasks range from the creation of liturgical material for congregations on war and peace to the drafting of peace resolutions on peace ethics for the Church synod. She is advisor to conscientious objectors in Germany and committed to the protection of conscientious objectors on the international level.

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Müller-Langsdorf is a member of the Protestant Working Group on Conscientious Objection and Peace (EAK) and in the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO). She is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.



Ms Riina Nguyen, Executive Director, Orthodox Church Aid and Missions Filantropia, Orthodox Church of Finland

Riina Nguyen is the Executive Director of Filantropia, Orthodox Church Aid and Missions, Finland. Since February 2022, her professional experience with Ukraine includes providing humanitarian aid to local communities, and since 2024, coordinating a project to support the integration of Ukrainians in Finland.

She holds a Master of Theology degree from the University of Eastern Finland. Her master thesis focused on membership of the Orthodox Church of Finland between 1950 and 1989. Her main interests are women in the Church, human rights, indigenous peoples, borders and decolonization.

Riina Nguyen is currently the representative of the Orthodox Church of Finland in the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. She previously worked as Project Man-

ager at Ortaid (Orthodox Church Aid from Finland), as a catechumen teacher in the Orthodox parish of Helsinki, as a lay representative in the Synod of the Orthodox Church of Finland, and as a representative of the Orthodox Church of Finland to the Ecumenical Council of Finland.



H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, President, Conference of European Churches

Archbishop Nikitas (Lilias) studied at Florida University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in 1976. He then enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1980 with a Master of Divinity with Honors.

Following his ordination to the priesthood, he was assigned as the Associate Pastor at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana. In 1987, he became the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago, Illinois, and at this same time, he also served as a Lecturer in Orthodox Theology at Loyola University.

He was elected Metropolitan of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia in 1996. While in Hong Kong, he also served as a Lecturer in Orthodox Theology and Liturgy at the Holy Spirit Catholic Seminary from 1999-2007.

Archbishop Nikitas serves the Mother Church in Constantinople in numerous important areas including as Coordinator of the Patriarchal Task Force on Human Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery, Chairman of the Committee on Youth for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Co-Chair and Steering Committee member of the Elijah Inter-Faith Foundation.

His Eminence Nikitas was elected Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain on 12 June 2019. On 19 June 2023, His Eminence was voted President of CEC.



Ms Katerina Pekridou, Programme Officer for Theology & Studies, Conference of European Churches

Katerina Pekridou serves CEC as Programme Officer for Theology & Studies. Her areas of work include public theology, peacebuilding and reconciliation, ecclesiology and mission. In 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, following the decision of the CEC Presidency, she developed the Initiative Pathways to Peace, which she is currently coordinating. Since 2008, she has been research associate of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies. From 2010-11 she worked for the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. From 2015-16, she was research associate at the Institute for

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Missiology and the Study of Theologies beyond Europe of the Catholic University of Münster, Germany.

Pekridou is a PhD scholar at the Catholic University of Leuven. She studied Orthodox theology at the University of Thessaloniki, and ecumenical theology at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, USA, the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, and the Protestant University of Göttingen.

She serves as a member of the Pro Oriente Steering Committee for Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue, the Joint Committee of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece on Human Trafficking, the Planning Committee of the Global Forum of Theological Educators, and the Executive Committee of the International Association for Mission Studies – Europe.



Rev. Riikka Porkola, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. Riikka Porkola serves as Advisor at the Department for International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Her expertise lies in the Ministry for Finns Abroad and congregational work with Ukrainians and Russians in Finland.

Rev. Porkola holds an M.Th. and MA in Russian language and literature. She is currently studying the Ukrainian language

and coordinating psycho-social support for Ukrainians in Finland. Her goal is to strengthen peace theology and churches in Ukraine. Rev. Porkola is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group. Her previous work experience is in Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Mr Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches

Since 2014, Peter Prove has been Director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC), responsible for WCC's activities in the fields of peacebuilding, disarmament and human rights, and for WCC's relations with the UN system.

A lawyer, he has long experience representing faith-based organizations in the international arena. Before joining the WCC, he was for more than 12 years Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and for four years Executive Director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA).

Among other responsibilities, he has also served as President of the NGO Special Committee on Human Rights (Geneva),

2000-2008; member of the UNCTAD Expert Advisory Group on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing, 2009; member of the UNAIDS International Advisory Group on Universal Access, 2011; member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Councils network 2012-2014; and member of the Steering Board of the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), 2018 to date.



Rev. Dr Anatoliy Raychynets, Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society and Head of external relations of the Ukrainian

Evangelical Church

Since April 2008, Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets has been serving as Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society (UkrBS), following the decision of the Central Board of the UBS. By decision of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Evangelical Church on May 16, 2012, he was elected as the Head of external relations of the Ukrainian Evangelical Church and is a member of the Church Council.

Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets was born in the village of Polyana, Zakarpattia region. Growing up in a large Christian family of clergymen, from his childhood he witnessed his father, Bishop Vasyl Raychynets,

and grandfather, Pastor Fedir Raychynets (repressed in 1951), serve in the Protestant Evangelical Church during the harsh times of the Soviet regime.

Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets has worked for the UkrBS since 2001. In 2017 he received a master's degree and a PhD in philosophy. In 2018, he was awarded the Order of Merit of the III degree by the President of Ukraine. During the same year, he was also awarded the Order of St. Volodymyr Equal-to-the-Apostles, III degree by Patriarch Filaret. Since the full-scale invasion, he has been a volunteer military priest, and he received the award 'For Service to God and Ukraine' by the Spiritual Directorate of Chaplains.



Dr Charles Reed, Senior policy advisor and church diplomat, Church of England

Dr Charles Reed is a senior policy advisor and church diplomat, who has successfully delivered political and public policy support, as well as programmatic assistance, to religious leaders and partners in developed, developing, fragile and conflict-affected environments.

He currently works for the Church of England, where he specialises in issues around human rights, freedom of religion or belief and conflict resolution. He is experienced in creating and managing projects, often in Muslim majority countries, that

support human development by building the capacity of local partners to be agents of change.

Dr Reed has considerable experience in working with governments, parliaments, religious leaders and civil society actors in the UK and across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East where he has conducted numerous diplomatic missions, needs assessments, design missions and project evaluations.

He has a deep and nuanced understanding of ecumenical and interfaith relations and of the way that religion shapes identity and societal relations. He is member of the CEC Governing Board and the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.



PD Dr Christine Schliesser, Protestant Church in Switzerland / Director of Studies at the Center for Faith&Society at Fribourg University

PD Dr. Christine Schliesser is a Senior Lecturer for Systematic Theology and Ethics at Zurich University and Director of Studies at the Center for Faith & Society at Fribourg University.

She is a Research Fellow in Studies in Historical Trauma and Transformation at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. In her research, she focuses on peace and reconciliation studies in societies in transi-

tion, (such as post-genocide Rwanda and post-Apartheid South Africa), Public Theology, and the role of religion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Together with a Jewish and a Muslim colleague, Christine Schliesser edits the book series Religion Matters. On the Significance of Religion in Global Issues (Routledge). Her most recent publication is the second expanded and revised edition of Alternative Approaches in Conflict Resolution (with Martin Leiner), Palgrave (in press). Dr Schliesser is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.



**Rev. Dr Ihor Shaban,
Chairman of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Affairs, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**

Rev. Dr Ihor Shaban is a priest of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He is married and has two children. He serves as the Chairman of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Affairs.

Rev. Dr Shaban holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) from the Ecumenical Institute of the Catholic University of Lublin. Previously, he pursued graduate studies at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, as well as at St Basil College of Stamford, Connecticut, USA.

In addition to his role as Chairman of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Affairs, he is Professor of Ecumenical Theology at the Greek Catholic Seminary in Kyiv, a member of the Administrative Board of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) Institute of Ecumenical Studies, a member of the Inter-Church Working Group 'Reconciliation in Europe – the task of the Churches in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Germany', as well as a member of the Board of Religions for Peace Europe.



**Bishop Pavlo Shvarts,
German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine**

Bishop Pavlo Shvarts was born in Lutsk, Volyn region.

In 2011 he graduated from the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw with a Master's in Theology degree and begun his postgraduate studies. In 2012 he completed the course on Pastoral Care and Psychology with the Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling (SIPCC).

Since 2012 he has been serving as a pastor of various Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Kharkiv, Kremenchuk, and Poltava. From 2013-2015 he served as a deputy of the Bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine.

From 2004-2014 Bishop Shvarts was co-organizer of the international Christian

camp 'Gloria'.

Since 2013 Bishop Pavlo Shvarts has been a member of the international ecumenical group 'Reconciliation in Europe', which includes representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church from four countries: Germany, Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Since 2017, Bishop Pavlo Shvarts is the founder and Director of the Diaconia Ukraine Charitable Foundation. In 2019 he was elected Bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (GELCU).



**Prof. Andrii Smyrnov,
Orthodox Church of Ukraine / National University of Ostroh Academy**

Prof. Andrii Smyrnov is Head of the Department of history at the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. His research interests are focused primarily on church history, religious studies, and church-state relations. Smyrnov earned his Doctorate of Historical Sciences in 2021 at the National University of Ostroh Academy. He is the author of *Between the Cross, the Swastika and the Red Star: Ukrainian Orthodoxy during the Second World War* (2021), as well as a number of publications on the history of religion.

He serves as a member of CEC's Pathways to Peace Initiative steering group, the

Expert Council under the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience, the Synodal Commission for inter-Christian relations of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and the World Council of Churches' reference group for the pilgrimage of justice, reconciliation and unity.



**Dr Pavlo Smytsnyuk,
Visiting Scholar at the George Washington University, Washington DC**

Dr Pavlo Smytsnyuk is a Visiting Scholar at the

Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the George Washington University, in Washington DC, working on a project on religious peacebuilding. Prior to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, Dr Smytsnyuk served as the Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies and a Senior Lecturer at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

From 2022-2024 Smytsnyuk was a research scholar at Princeton University. He has published on topics such as Eastern Christianity, political theology and nationalism, as well as religious approaches to war and the ecological crisis.

Since 2021 he has been a member of the State Department's Advisory Council of Religions and Ethnicities of Ukraine, and has led a number of international projects. He is also a member of the Pathways to Peace

Steering Group.

Smytsnyuk studied philosophy and theology in Rome, Athens and St Petersburg and holds a Doctorate from the University of Oxford.



Rev. Dr Letizia Tomassone, Waldensian Church in Italy

Rev. Dr Letizia Tomassone is a pastor of the Waldensian Church in Naples. Her

commitment to gender justice, environmental justice, and feminist theologies is a key aspect of her involvement in the Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation Conciliar process (JIPC).

Dr Tomassone holds an M.A. from the Protestant University of Montpellier and an M.Div. from the Protestant University of Rome. She is known for her research on feminist spirituality and pre-patriarcal Goddess religions. She published a number of articles about the political 'thought of difference', developed by the Feminist community of Diotima.

She was the first woman to manage the direction of the Ecumenical International Centre of Agape, a place where Protestants in Italy reflect on changes in society that affect theology and spirituality. She also served as Vice-President of the Federation of Protestants Churches in Italy, responsible for ecumenical and interreligious dia-

logue.

In 2009 Dr. Tomassone was appointed as lecturer on 'Feminist and Gender Studies' at the Protestant University of Rome. She is also among the founders of the Women's Theological Association in Italy.



Ms Natallia Vasilevich, Ecumenical Patriarchate / University of Bonn

Natallia Vasilevich is an Orthodox theologian and human rights lawyer from

Belarus. She currently lives in Bonn, Germany, where she is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bonn. She is the moderator of the Belarusian ecumenical group 'Christian Vision' and coordinator of the project 'Christians Against War'. Vasilevich is a member of the Pathways to Peace Steering Group.



Rev. Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner, President, Globethics

Rev. Prof. Dr. Dietrich Werner is an ordained pastor of the Protestant Church

in Northern Germany (retired), and President of Globethics (<https://globethics.net/>). He is Honorary Professor of Intercultural Theology and Ecumenism, and Senior Research Scholar at the Humboldt University Berlin.

Previously, Prof. Werner served at the World Council of Churches as the Director of the International Theological Education Program, as well as at Bread for the World, the Protestant Development Organization, as Senior Theological Advisor, and at the Northelbian Mission Agency in Hamburg.

He is a member of the Think Tank Commission on Religion and Development at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and former member of the National EKD Commission on ethics for sustainable development. He is the author and editor of numerous international peer-reviewed publications.



Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter, Vice-President, Conference of European Churches

Bishop Dagmar Winter completed her Doctorate

in Theology at Heidelberg University, Germany in February 1996. Her ordination into the Priesthood at Rochester Cathedral followed swiftly in 1997.

Bishop Dagmar's earlier years mostly include Ministry (Licensed Lay Ministers, Curates, Ordinands – Sponsoring Bishop), ecumenical links and Rural Church. Over the years, she has also held many different postings in academic institutions and national roles.

She has worked as a Vicar, Curate, Priest-

in-Charge and Area Dean in various locations in the United Kingdom. She worked as Bishop's Adviser for Women's Ministry and a member of Bishop's Senior Staff from 2012-2019. During some of those years (2015-2019), Bishop Dagmar served as a Rector and Lecturer of Hexham. From 2014-2017 she was an Hon Fellow in the Department of Theology & Religion of Durham University.

Her national posts include Member of General Synod of the Church of England for the Diocese of Newcastle, Member of Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England and Member of Church of England Faith and Order Commission.

Her role as Bishop of Huntingdon in the Diocese of Ely started on 3 July 2019. She was voted Vice-President of CEC on 19 June, 2023.



Mr Oleksandr Zaiets, Head of the Institute of Religious Freedom, Kyiv, Ukraine

Oleksandr Zaiets is the

Board Chairman of the Institute for Religious Freedom (IRF) in Kyiv. He was born in the Donetsk region. He holds university degrees in law and theology and has been working in interfaith dialogue and church-state relations since the 1990s.

From 1999-2001, he worked as an assis-

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tant Consultant to a Ukrainian Member of Parliament. In 2001, he co-founded and headed the IRF, a public organization. Since 2004, he has been the Executive Secretary of the Council of Christian Churches of Ukraine.

Zaiets served as an expert in the Working Group on Religious Freedom of the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, as well as the Expert Group on Freedom of Conscience of the National Council on Culture and Spirituality under the President of Ukraine, and other advisory and expert bodies. From 2017-2019, he worked as a pro bono advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine. Since 2024 he has been serving as a pro bono Advisor to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

Zaiets is the developer of a number of legislative initiatives and amendments to the laws on freedom of conscience and the activities of religious organisations.

For about 30 years he has been working in the areas of interfaith dialogue and church-state relations. He is a co-founder and moderator of the Religious Freedom Roundtable in Ukraine, which serves as a platform for dialogue between the religious

and human rights community and the government.

For many years, the IRS, a non-governmental organisation headed by him, has been

providing advisory, legal, and organisational assistance to the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations, the Council of Christian Churches of Ukraine, the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches, and other interfaith organisations.

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