



# RAAD VAN KERKEN IN NEDERLAND

## **Council of Churches in The Netherlands calls on churches to be peacemakers**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God (Mt. 5:9)*

It is with dismay and bewilderment that we follow the developments in Ukraine. We feel connected with the Ukrainian people, the victims of the war and the refugees who have had to leave hearth and home.

The Council of Churches in the Netherlands unanimously condemns the Russian attack on Ukraine. There is no justification for this invasion. This war is a flagrant violation of international law.

Already at the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948 in Amsterdam, the churches declared 'war is against the will of God' and in recent years they have declared that we are called to work for 'just peace'.

In that spirit, the Council of Churches in the Netherlands calls on churches worldwide - including the churches in Russia - to speak out against this war.

We call on Russia to immediately implement a ceasefire, withdraw its military from Ukraine and begin negotiations for a political solution to the conflict.

We pray for the victims of this terrible war in the heart of Europe. We also ask every one of good will to work for peace and to engage themselves to assist the victims and refugees. We also pray that our bewilderment may be transformed into real solidarity and reconciliation.

In these dark days, we pray to God for support and help for the people of Ukraine with the words: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.' (Ps. 46:2,10-12).

Geert van Dartel  
President

Christien Crowel  
Secretary General

Kees Nieuwerth  
Vice-president

Member churches and associate members of the Council of Churches in the Netherlands:

General Mennonite Society

Anglican Church in the Netherlands

Association of Free Evangelical Congregations in the Netherlands

Moravian Church in the Netherlands

Coptic Orthodox Church

Salvation Army

New Apostolic Church in the Netherlands

Orthodox Church in the Netherlands

Old Catholic Church in the Netherlands

Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Remonstrant Brotherhood

Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands

Syrian Orthodox Church in the Netherlands

Critical Groups and Congregations in the Netherlands (associate member)

Church of the Seventh-Day Adventists (associate member)

Association of Dutch Protestants (associate member)

United Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches (associate member)

Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated) and Dutch Reformed Churches (associate member)