

Guidelines for organisations and individuals communicating on matters of conflict

Dear Alliance Organisation Leaders:

As the world's attention focuses on the war in Ukraine, here are a few thoughts to help your members think, pray and communicate in a helpful manner. Please feel free to share these with anyone who could benefit.

Remember that ...

- A country's people do not necessarily support their government's actions.
- The conflict in Ukraine brings devastating pain to people in both Russia and Ukraine. In many cases, families and friends are being called upon to fight each other.
- Panic, fear and anxiety are the default responses for people in neighbouring countries, too. The whole region feels insecure.
- This is not the only conflict in the world right now. In fact, [here is a map](#) showing many of the conflicts taking place in 2021. Multitudes of people have been dealing with war and unrest for decades. They are hurting, too.
- Christians in some contexts are quick to link current world events with biblical prophecy. These efforts often stir controversy and can discredit Christians' witness. Instead, we can rest in the knowledge that God is sovereign. He has allowed this to happen. We can pray that his will be done, even in this hard situation.
- The Bible reminds us that "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12.)

Pray for ...

- God to defeat the powers of darkness and spiritual forces of evil.
- The people of Russia and Ukraine. All are victims in this tragic situation.
- The church in Russia and Ukraine: that they can be a voice of peace.
- Governments to end this conflict quickly and with minimal loss of life.

- People and governments in the other countries bordering Ukraine: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova and Belarus. Pray against fear and panic, and also for wisdom in meeting refugee needs.
- Traumatized people in other regions of the world: from wars, internal conflict, terrorism, natural disasters and more.
- God to reveal and accomplish his purposes in this situation. May his kingdom come and his will be done.

Communication guidelines for organisations and individuals

- Resist the urge to portray one entire nation or group as the evil aggressor and the other as the innocent victim. This can cause lasting damage among strong communities of Christian believers in both nations.
- Think and pray before you post or email: Does what you intend to share reflect the heart of Christ and the sovereignty of God? Or does it reflect a spirit of fear, anger or accusation?
- Regarding social media: Don't be fooled and don't inadvertently mislead others. Propaganda and disinformation are abundant. Help stop their spread. Here are two credible, current resources:
 1. A [CNN panel discusses](#) how to navigate social media and disinformation during wartime.
 2. An [article from The Poynter Institute](#), a journalism think tank, shows examples of viral social media photos and claims from the past week that have been proven false or misleading.
- Be aware of pain points all over the world, and be inclusive in situations you comment on.

If you have questions or concerns about something you or your members want to post online, we are offering our Alliance Communications team as a consultative resource. We also can serve as a link to organisations that may be impacted by that communication.

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