

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D019  
**Title:** Justice and Peace in Ukraine  
**Proposer:** Brown, Deputy Nathan  
**Topic:** Peace, Warfare

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2022-B008 Call for the Cessation of Conflict in Ukraine

**Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D019 - Justice and Peace in Ukraine

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Brown, Deputy Nathan

**Endorsed by:** Graves, The Rev. Charles, Miller, Mr. Kevin

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 06 - Social Justice & International Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention condemns the war crimes committed in Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation's invasion, contrary to international law, and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention condemns Russia's deliberate targeting of civilian targets, documented by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (OHCHR), most notably committed in Bucha; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention urges all Churches in Russia, especially the Russian Orthodox Church, to condemn these war crimes as inconsistent with our shared faith, and to call for peace and accountability; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention calls for the Russian Federation to end its attacks in Ukraine, and for a just peace to be negotiated respecting all of Ukraine's territory as recognized by international law; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention urges all parties to respect and fully cooperate with any relevant investigations by International Bodies such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice to ensure that all those who commit war crimes are held to account for their actions

## **Explanation**

The Episcopal Church has a moral obligation to speak out against injustice and violence wherever it occurs. Hebrews 12:14 is one of a myriad of verses in scripture that remind us of God's call for creation to live in peace with all and respect the dignity of every human being. Sadly, we have seen Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine prosecuted with severe disregard for human lives, and it has been well documented that the Russian Federation has engaged in serious war crimes such as the deliberate targeting of civilians, the abduction through removal of Ukrainian families and childrens from their homes in Ukraine to Russia against their will, torture and ill-treatment of children, sexual violence, forced conscription, and looting.

We as a Church have an important role in serving as peacemakers in our world. Our role is even more important in calling out these war crimes as the Russian Orthodox Church has used theological justification for the war in Ukraine, and has enthusiastically supported Putin's war of aggression and has failed to condemn Russia's war crimes in Ukraine.

It is vital that we do our part as peacekeepers to call out these war crimes, and to urge the respect for International Law and a just peace that recognizes the rights and respects the dignity of the people of Ukraine.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-B008  
**Title:** Call for the Cessation of Conflict in Ukraine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church condemn the aggression launched by the Russian Federation on the sovereign and independent nation of Ukraine on February 24, 2022; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this convention call on the leaders of the Russian Federation and its supporters to cease their aggression and enter immediately into good-faith negotiations in which Ukraine's sovereignty and security are assured and call those among the nations of the world who may have the capacity to influence the choices made by those directing this war urgently to do so; and be it further*

*Resolved, That as faithful Christians we call upon our siblings in the churches of Russia and Ukraine to remind their leaders of Christ's commandment that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves—a commandment we believe provides no justification for violent conflict unless in the defense of the vulnerable and defenseless; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention commend the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, and our congregations in Europe, in their ongoing efforts to provide support and succor to all refugees seeking safety and shelter in Europe; and helping them rebuild shattered lives; and be it further*

*Resolved, That all refugees, regardless of the reasons for their flight or the country of their origin, be received with equal dignity, equal hospitality, and equal treatment; and that all congregations be aware of, and guard against, the dangers of human trafficking to which refugees are especially vulnerable; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention commend the ongoing work of diplomats and peacemakers, and call upon all those in authority to labor without ceasing to bring a swift and just end to this conflict, and a restoration of Ukraine's independence and autonomy under conditions of tranquility.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 902-903.