



The JBU Executive Committee Urges Prayer for Ukraine

The Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) is deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and its impact on the population, resulting in a humanitarian crisis.

The United Nations estimates that 6.5 million persons have been displaced in Ukraine, while more than nine hundred civilians have been killed since the Russian invasion on February 24.

During the recently concluded Executive Committee Meeting, the members examined a correspondence between Acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Sauca and Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, His Holiness Kirill. Rev. Prof. Dr. Sauca appealed to His Holiness Kirill to intervene and mediate with the authorities to stop the war, the bloodshed and the suffering, and to make efforts to bring peace through dialogue and negotiations.

The JBU supports this call and prays for an end to the violence and bloodshed. While we are relieved that the Jamaican students who were studying in Ukraine are home, we are deeply concerned about the future of their academic pursuits. Three of these students are graduates of Calabar High School and one of them is linked to the JBU, as his mother was a member of the administrative staff for several years.

During our meeting, we agreed to take the following actions in response to the crisis.

- Encourage all JBU churches to intercede on behalf of Ukrainians and all those who are affected by the war. Prayer is a gift that we can offer and an intervention that we can make. We appeal to God on behalf of all those who are suffering.
- Write Baptists in Ukraine, expressing our solidarity during their suffering. Offer tangible support through relief agencies affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance. If you wish to contribute you may use the donate button on the JBU Website, click this link <https://tinyurl.com/JBU-donates-to-Ukraine> and indicate in the "note" what the payment is for, or deposit funds to the JBU Account #304 310 006 NCB, Half Way Tree Branch. Please send us a copy of the payment receipt.
- Facilitate a conversation with affected students, considering the trauma they have gone through. It is our intention to explore the kind of support we can offer to students returning from the Ukraine and Russia. Our intervention may include appealing to local universities to waive a portion of the required tuition so that they can continue their studies.
- Write to the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Jamaica, H.E. Mr. Sergey Petrovich, expressing our concerns and appealing for an end to the war.

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:14)."

Sincerely yours,

Merlyn Hyde Riley (Rev.)

Acting General Secretary