



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

Statement regarding the war in Ukraine

In response to the sad events unfolding in Ukraine which are having implications for aviation around the globe, the International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains calls each of its members, airport chaplains around the world and all of our friends in the aviation industry to earnestly pray and advocate for peace.

From its heroic times of pioneers and through the development of commercial flights, civil aviation's dream and ambition has always been to bring people together from many parts of the world, from different cultures, religions and faiths. Wars, particularly between nations so close as Russia and Ukraine, bring enmity between neighbours and divides families.

As a global body of people of many different faiths and traditions we call for the leaders of the nations involved to pursue the good of their people and all people and seek to restore peace. In the prayers of our various traditions, we pledge to support peace in whatever way we can and affirm our support to each person affected by this war that we might encounter on the airports in which we serve.

We express our solidarity and continued prayer the recovery of the global aviation industry from the COVID-19 crisis. It certainly does not need another global disaster which has the potential to affect thousands of workers and travelers around the world, particularly in the countries affected by this war. We pray for safety as decisions are made regarding closing airspace and for the professionals who are dealing with the operational effects of the reroutings. Most importantly, we pray for a quick and peaceful solution to this conflict we hope for a complete restoration of the freedom to travel safely around the world.

In the following pages we share some prayers from major world faiths as a sign of hope and unity in the midst of these very troubling times. On the following link we've chosen to compile prayers for Ukraine from a wider range of faiths and spiritual expressions as well as statements from other religious organisations. IACAC Members are invited to feed this page with personal thoughts, prayers and resources.
www.iacac.aero/ukraine

Pierre de Mareuil
President
Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG)
1 March 2022

Founded in 1967 the International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains (IACAC) is a fellowship of airport chaplains from all world faiths. It promotes an ecumenical and multi-faith communion between chaplains and provides them with training. These chaplains make themselves available for spiritual services and counseling for passengers and airport personnel.

IACAC provides a continuing exchange of experience and insights to enhance the fulfillment of their task. The international association contributes to the theological and sociological understanding of civil aviation. It organizes annual conferences, represents its members and informs them as well as the public.

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Prayers for peace from world faiths

From the Orthodox* litany of peace (beginning of the Divine Liturgy)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

* *The main religion in both Russia and Ukraine is Orthodox Christianity*

From the Jewish tradition: Psalm 31*

1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

3 Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

4 Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

5 Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the Lord.

7 I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

8 You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.

9 Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.

10 My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

11 Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends— those who see me on the street flee from me.

12 I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

13 For I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" They conspire against me and plot to take my life.

14 But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God."

15 My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

16 Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

17 Let me not be put to shame, Lord, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and be silent in the realm of the dead.

18 Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt –

they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

19 How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.

20 In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues; you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues.

21 Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege.

22 In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

23 Love the Lord, all his faithful people!

The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full.

24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

* *The Chief Rabbi in Ukraine invited Jews and Christians to read this Psalm*



From the Muslim tradition

O ye who believe! Enter into peace (*silm*) whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he is to you an avowed enemy.

A Buddhist Prayer for Peace in Kyiv

Regardless of geopolitical alignments, alliances, and allegiances, the priority for all Buddhists should be to pray for the minimization of life, especially civilian casualties. As Junsei Terasawa said to Credo. Press: “We will continue to pray there for the nature and land of Ukraine, as well as for people to wake up everywhere: in Ukraine, in Russia and around the world – and that the secret divine wisdom will lead us all together in this difficult time.”

A Hindu prayer for peace

I desire neither earthly kingdom, nor even freedom from birth and death.
I desire only the deliverance from grief of all those afflicted by misery.
Oh Lord, lead us from the unreal to the real; from darkness to light; from death to immortality.
May there be peace in celestial regions.
May there be peace on earth.
May the waters be appeasing.
May herbs be wholesome and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May your wisdom spread peace all through the world.
May all things be a source of peace to all and to me.
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti (Peace, peace, peace).

From the Sikh tradition: Shalok, Third Mehl

The world is going up in flames – shower it with Your Mercy and save it!
Save it and deliver it, by whatever method it takes.
The True Guru has shown the way to peace, contemplating the True Word of the Shabad.
Naak knows no other than the Lord, the Forgiving Lord.

Find more prayers for peace in Ukraine at www.iacac.aero/ukraine