



49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 28 February – 1 April 2022

Urgent Debate on Ukraine

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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APG23 calls for an immediate halt to hostilities in Ukraine: once again, the folly of war is being chosen, the most devastating impact of which falls on civilians and defenceless populations. We would like to echo what Pope Francis said: “those who wage war forget humanity, they do not start from the people, they do not look at the concrete life of the people, but put partisan interests and power in front of everything.”

With our long practice as Unarmed Civilian and Nonviolent Peace Corps in war zones, we have witnessed the catastrophic consequences of wars: widows, orphans and destroyed lives. On the other side, we experienced the constructive force of Nonviolence. The war in Ukraine, like any other conflict, violates the human right of individuals and peoples to peace as well as their civil, political, social, economic and cultural human rights.

We express our solidarity with the populations involved in this conflict and support the efforts of civil society in Ukraine and the Russian Federation working towards an immediate cessation of hostilities for embarking on a path of true peace and reconciliation.

We believe that a process of disarmament and demilitarisation is urgently needed to guarantee peace. Even more urgent is the need to prevent an escalation into a nuclear war and ensure the humanitarian protection of civilians by also activating humanitarian corridors. In this regard, APG23, as other NGOs, has already started its humanitarian mobilization.

We appeal the UN and all concerned parties to strive for an end to the fighting by all means of diplomacy implementing the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

Thank you!