

2 March 2022

To all serving Ministers within PCI

Dear Colleagues,

Appeal for Ukraine Crisis

Further to my letter last week calling for congregations to pray for the situation in Ukraine, tragically the bombardment of Ukraine and its people by Putin's forces has continued, and the fear and suffering of people living in the country has increased each day. The United Nations estimates 800,000 people have fled the country due to the war so far, and many more are expected to follow.

Following consultation with colleagues, today I am launching a Moderator's Appeal towards the emergency relief effort to help people in Ukraine and those fleeing the conflict. I am confident our members will respond as generously as they have on many previous occasions to similar appeals. My suggestion is that the Appeal be announced this Sunday, 6 March and over the next two weeks.

In anticipation of your response, we are immediately releasing £60,000 (€72,035) to be distributed equally to PCI's relief and development partners Christian Aid and Tearfund, and also to the Reformed Church in Hungary (Hungarian Reformed Church Aid). They are all experienced in supplying and distributing humanitarian aid and assistance, not least to refugees and displaced people fleeing regions of conflict, and whenever possible, will extend their reach into Ukraine itself.

PowerPoint slides to assist you with highlighting this special appeal in your congregation will follow tomorrow and will also be made available on the PCI website www.presbyterianireland.org.

Congregational contributions for the Appeal may be sent to the Financial Secretary's Department in Assembly Buildings. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Presbyterian Church in Ireland' and designated for the 'Moderator's Ukraine Crisis Appeal'. Where possible, members should be encouraged to contribute to their congregations under the gift aid scheme, with congregational treasurers sending in a total amount. The closing date for contributions to the Appeal will be 30 June 2022.

I encourage you to continue to pray, asking God that the conflict would not spread further, that those who have lost loved ones would be comforted, and those who find themselves without homes would be led to places of welcome and shelter. Pray for the Christian Churches in Ukraine, for their endurance, protection and faithful witness in face of this time of trial. Pray especially that a way might be found to bring a peaceful end to this needless war.

Yours in Christ, and with deep concern,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bruce', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rt Rev Dr David Bruce
Moderator of the General Assembly