

**Nashville Consultation on Ukraine**  
**Franklin, TN, USA**  
**November 10-11, 2022**

An international consultation on Ukraine took place in Franklin, TN, USA on November 10-11, 2022. The consultation was initiated by Mission Eurasia, a Christian organization, and served as a platform that brought together many friends of Ukraine: analysts, church leaders, ministry leaders, politicians, and philanthropists.

A total of more than 120 participants from Ukraine, the US, Moldova, and Poland gathered to analyze the causes of Russian aggression, discuss the challenges Ukraine was facing as a result of that aggression, and consolidate efforts to continue helping the hurting Ukrainian people and churches that serve these people.

“February 24, the day of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, changed my life. Since that day, all my heart and my efforts have been directed to help the suffering people,” shared Sergey Rakhuba, the President of Mission Eurasia. “And now that the war in Ukraine is being pushed out from Western media by other events, I understand really well that Ukraine still needs help. The challenges have only intensified. That was why our team organized and held the consultation. This was a strategic event that has affected, and will continue to affect, the dynamics of providing assistance to Ukrainian churches, refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova, and many people in need.”

A large number of representatives from Ukraine participated in the consultation: Oleksandr Markushyn, Mayor of Irpin; Maryan Zablotsky, member of Ukrainian Parliament, economist; Rev. Dr. Valerii Antoniuk, President of the Baptist Union of Ukraine; pastor Igor Bandura, Vice President of International Affairs for the Baptist Union of Ukraine; Anatoliy Kozachok, Vice President of International Affairs and Partnerships of Ukrainian Pentecostal Church; Yevstratiy Zorya, Archbishop of Chernihiv and Nizhyn Orthodox Church of Ukraine; Oleksandr Yazlovetskiy, Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kyiv-Zhytomyr, Auxiliary Bishop of the Kyiv-Zhytomyr; Rev. Mykhailo Brytsyn, Pastor of Grace Evangelical Baptist Church in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine (was arrested by Russian special forces and with his family was deported to the unoccupied territory of Ukraine); Oleksandr Zaiets, President of the Institute for Religious Freedom; Pavlo Unguryan, member of Parliament of Ukraine of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> convocations, coordinator of the executive committee of the All-Ukrainian Council (Sobor) of Evangelical Churches.

International participants of the consultation included: Dr. John Bernbaum, Senior Scholar at Paul Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics at Calvin University; Dr. Mark Elliot, expert on East-West church relations, editor emeritus of *East-West Church and Ministry Report*; Dr. Richard Scheuerman, professor emeritus of education and history at Seattle Pacific University, longtime board member of Mission Eurasia, author for books on cultural history; Bria Blessing, long-time missionary to Ukraine, American-Ukrainian singer, humanitarian activist; Rev. Dr. Valeriu Ghilețchi, member of the parliament of Moldova, former president of the Baptist Union of Moldova, member of the European Parliament, expert on relationships between the church and society; Pavel Shchelin, Associate Expert of the Ukrainian Institute for the Future, postgraduate of the Central European University in Vienna; philosopher, historian, and PhD Candidate in International Relations; Alexandr Belev, Director of Mission Eurasia's International School Without Walls, senior pastor of Church Without Walls, Director of Chisinau iCare Refugee Assistance Center, Moldova; Rev. Don Parsons, Director of Mission Eurasia ministry in Poland; Raymond LeClair, director for the Christian Education Resource Network, Mission Eurasia, and other heads of churches, ministries, and foundations.

“From the first days of the war, Mission Eurasia, together with its partners in Ukraine, and through its refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova, has focused on evacuating people, delivering food packages to those in need, and assisting children and adults who have experienced the trauma of war. Our iCare Refugee Assistance Program became one of the key channels of support for suffering people. However, the crisis in Ukraine is not a regional crisis, it’s a global one, and requires a global response,” says Denis Gorenkov, Mission Eurasia International Director.

The Consultation was focused on the following topics:

- Ideology of the “Russian World” and its impact on neighboring countries and the global community.
- Economic, humanitarian, and religious consequences of the war in Ukraine.
- Attack on freedom of religion in the occupied territories of Ukraine.
- The role of the Church during the war and how church communities in the US and the whole world can consolidate efforts to support Ukraine.

According to the participants, the crisis in Ukraine is intensifying, and it is vital to strengthen the existing channels of support and develop new assistance initiatives. Therefore, the consultation was an excellent opportunity to establish

strategic partnerships and relations that will serve the Ukrainian church and suffering people, and restore the country in the future.

As a strategic response, the participants signed a Resolution of Christian Solidarity, Religious Freedom and Humanitarian Compassion for the people of Ukraine suffering from the war.

The Mission Eurasia team expresses its gratitude to all the churches, ministries, and partners with whom we serve the people of Ukraine and refugees in Poland and Moldova, and with whom we held the consultation in Franklin. We believe God will sustain us and show us His mercy in the ongoing battle. “If God is with us, who can be against us?”