

WHEN TIME COMES

The Center for Church-Based Development, The National Council of Churches in Denmark, the Bible Society and The Interchurch Council, in collaboration with the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, invite you to a conference on just peace, trauma healing and the path to reconciliation in Ukraine.

Reconciliation is only possible “when time comes”. These were the words of a Ukrainian church leader during the preparations for the conference, which has now been given the same name. He had spent most of the night before in a bomb shelter to protect himself and his family. In the darkness of the night, when the only light in the streets of Kyiv came from Russian missiles, he had not had much time to think about peace and reconciliation.

It is in the glow of the Russian missiles and nights spent in bomb shelters that the Ukrainian churches carry out their humanitarian relief work. The churches constitute Ukraine’s largest civil society network and are present in almost all Ukrainian villages. Since Russia’s invasion of the country, many churches have become centers for relief work, while also taking care of the psychological and existential needs of the population.

In other words, churches play a crucial role in Ukrainian society – both as a strong civil society actor and as an important political voice. That is why it is also crucial to understand how the churches in Ukraine view the issue of just peace and reconciliation in the country.

The When Time Comes conference provides a unique opportunity for conversation and reflection on what just peace means for Ukraine, how the extensive war trauma can be processed, and what the journey towards reconciliation looks like from the perspective of the Ukrainian churches. It invites dialogue about the role of the churches – both in an existential and spiritual sense, as part of civil society and as relief actors in a time of war and destruction.

Time and place

Monday 26 May 2025, 13:00-17:00 (lunch from 12:00)

Ukraine House, Strandgade 27b, Copenhagen

Registration

The conference is open to all interested and the number of places are limited.

You can sign up here via [this link](#).

PROGRAM

13.00-13.10: Opening and welcome

Katja Gunnertoft Bojsen, Secretary General, Center for Church-Based Development (CKU) and Emil Hilton Saggau, secretary-general, The National Council of Churches in Denmark

13.10-14.00: Testimony from the front line

Pastor Valerii Antoniuk, President of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

Bishop Anatoliy Kozachok, Ukrainian Pentecostal Church

14.15-14.30: Danish-Ukrainian partnerships and humanitarian work

Daniel Nygaard Madsen, International Director, CKU

14.30-15.00: Trauma treatment in Ukraine - with a focus on young people

Viktoriia Raichynets, director, Trauma Healing Institute, Ukraine Bible Society

Olena Nosova, psychologist and facilitator at the Trauma Healing Institute

15.00-15.20: Round Table Discussion - politicians perspectives on rebuilding Ukraine

15.45-16.30: Just Peace and the Path towards Reconciliation

Metropolitan Yevstratiy (Zorya), Orthodox Church in Ukraine

Dr. Cyril Hovorun, professor, Stockholm School of Theology

Dr. Branko Sekuli, University Center for Protestant Theology, Zagreb

16.30-17.00: Panel debate: How can Denmark support Ukraine?

Fra kl. 17:00: Light catering and networking

