



Joint Statement of the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine and the Evangelical Alliance in the Republic of Poland

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (*Matthew 5:9*)

We, the leaders of the Evangelical churches of Ukraine and Poland, address our believers and all people of goodwill in our nations in response to the tensions arising from differing views on the difficult chapters of our shared history.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we experience unity through the forgiveness that God has granted us. We are called not to fuel hostility, but to be people of truth, love, and reconciliation. The Lord teaches us not to repay evil for evil, but to overcome evil with good, forgiving one another and striving to live in peace with everyone, **“as God in Christ forgave you”** (*Ephesians 4:32*).

Our nations share a complex past that includes both examples of fraternal support and self-sacrifice, as well as tragic events that have left deep wounds. We bow in reverence before the memory of all innocent victims and express our compassion to everyone who has endured suffering and loss.

We acknowledge that the findings of historical research, assessments of past events, and national narratives may differ. Understanding the past requires an honest, impartial, and responsible approach.

We therefore call for the impartial and professional study of history, free from political pressure, and believe that the joint work of independent scholars will contribute to establishing historical truth and fostering mutual understanding.

We are convinced that responsibility for crimes cannot be attributed to entire nations, and that historical disputes must not become a cause of hatred, divisions between churches, or the destruction of good-neighbourly relations. This is especially important now, as Ukraine is enduring a war: any tension between our nations weakens us both and is exploited by our common enemy to advance its aggressive objectives.

As the Polish signatories to this statement, we firmly oppose all expressions of hatred towards Ukrainians who are living in Poland as refugees. Extending hospitality and support to those who find themselves far from home and in need of help is a fundamental Christian value.

As the Ukrainian signatories to this statement, we wholeheartedly thank the Polish people for the unprecedented support they have provided to Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale war. Millions of Ukrainians have found refuge, assistance, and fraternal love in Poland. These acts have become a powerful testimony to the strength of Christian solidarity and partnership between our nations.

We call upon all believers in Ukraine and Poland to pray:

- for wisdom, the healing of historical memory, mutual understanding, and reconciliation;
- for the rejection of hate speech, insults, generalisations, and mutual accusations;
- that historical tragedies will not be used as instruments of political struggle or social division;
- for the strengthening of fraternal unity among the Christians of our countries;
- for respect for the dignity of every person, regardless of nationality;
- for an end to the war and a just peace for Ukraine.

The New Testament principle of unconditionally forgiving those who have wronged us remains an essential task for all who seek peace, justice, and genuine reconciliation.

We call upon ministers, church leaders, public figures, historians, and all those who shape public opinion to set an example of responsibility, restraint, and mutual respect. At the same time, we appeal to everyone who encounters members of our nations in their daily lives to treat them without prejudice, not to be guided by the misguided principle of collective responsibility, but instead to show goodwill and understanding. None of us is perfect.

May the memory of our difficult past become a lesson that helps us build the future, rather than giving rise to new conflicts!

We pray that the Lord God will bless Ukraine and Poland, granting our nations wisdom, unity, courage, and a just and lasting peace.

**Members of the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine
and the Evangelical Alliance in the Republic of Poland**

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Pastor Andrzej Nędzusiak
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