



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Russia/Ukraine: Peace is the only solution!

Protect conscientious objectors and all civilians

Brussels, 24 February 2022

The European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) **strongly condemns the Russian invasion in Ukraine** this morning and calls all parties to strictly adhere to **international humanitarian law** and **international human rights law**, including the **right to conscientious objection to military service**, and to protect civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees. EBCO urges to end the war with an immediate ceasefire leaving space for negotiation and diplomacy.

"Peace is the only solution; and it cannot be safeguarded without equally safeguarding the right to conscientious objection to military service, which is as well a basic human right as a concrete act of rejecting war and violence; it is a tangible contribution to peace and universal human values", EBCO President Alexia Tsouni stated today.

EBCO stands in solidarity with the pacifist movements in Russia and Ukraine, and shares their statements for peace, non-violence, and conscientious objection.

Statement by the Movement of Conscientious Objectors to Military Service in Russia:

What is happening in Ukraine is a war unleashed by Russia.

*The Conscientious Objectors Movement condemns the Russian military aggression.
And calls on Russia to stop the war.*

The Conscientious Objectors Movement calls on the Russian soldiers not to participate in hostilities. Do not become war criminals.

The Conscientious Objectors Movement calls on all recruits to refuse military service: apply for alternative civilian service, be exempted on medical grounds.

Statement by the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement:

The Ukrainian Pacifist Movement condemns all military actions by the sides of Russia and Ukraine in the context of the current conflict.

We call the leadership of both states and military forces to step back and sit at the negotiation table. Peace in Ukraine and around the world can be achieved only in a non-violent way.

War is a crime against humanity. Therefore, we are determined not to support any kind of war and to strive for the removal of all causes of war.

EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.

David Frenkel



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Photo from Russia: NO WAR



Photo from Ukraine: PEACE!

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Мне не нужна война!



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Poster: I DON'T NEED WAR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS please contact:

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