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PeaceNexus statement of solidarity with Ukraine

PeaceNexus was established to build peace by supporting local and international organisations that work to resolve disputes and strengthen social cohesion and trust. Aggression and war run counter to everything we stand for.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces violates the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine. It undermines the norm enshrined in the UN Charter that prohibits aggression for territorial conquest. This norm is a foundation of global peace and prosperity.

The escalation of aggression by Russian armed forces has now reached the level of war crimes and is causing a humanitarian crisis. Unfortunately, this suffering is not unique to Ukraine. There are other wars where civilians and democratic institutions have become the deliberate target of military action. PeaceNexus stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and all others who are resisting the erosion of their liberty and applauds their bravery. Our thoughts are with everyone whose lives have been disrupted by war, and we commend all those protesting against it, especially where this carries great personal risk.

The war in Ukraine will have global consequences for future peace and security and the work of PeaceNexus. In our regional programmes (Western Balkans, Central Asia, West Africa and Southeast Asia) we have taken steps to monitor geopolitical-economic shifts and support our partners to better understand and respond to the risks associated with the economic shocks, food insecurity and social divisions brought about by the war. A new focus for our engagement with business this year will be adaptation related to sanctions and responsible divestment, including from Russia and Myanmar.

Looking to the future, this war is a wake-up call. We must not take international norms for granted but work to strengthen international institutions and frameworks that uphold them. This is necessary but not sufficient. To meet global challenges of rising inequality, environmental destruction and distrust in institutions, we must also strengthen mechanisms of accountability and collaboration at every level. As we begin to prepare for the development of our next strategy, we will draw inspiration from the courage of those that are facing war and oppression today to vigorously invest in strengthening organisations that are critical for generating trust and enabling peaceful dispute resolution within and across societies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catriona Gourlay".

Catriona Gourlay
Executive Director