



## Minute on Conflicts in Our World 2022

South Central Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands concerned for the people of Ukraine who are suffering from the invasion by Russia. We stand resolute for the human rights of all people across the world and against violence towards civilians as we are seeing occurring in Ukraine. Yet as we criticize Russia for its military incursions, we must recognize our own country's military actions, killing of civilians, and operations to overthrow democratically elected governments from Asia to Central and South America.

We cannot be in integrity when we ask the International Criminal Court to pursue Russia while not allowing it to pursue the US for our crimes in Afghanistan and the humanitarian crisis left behind. We cannot condemn Russia for its mass destruction in Ukraine without remembering our "Shock and Awe" campaign against Iraq. We cannot consider ourselves virtuous by passing supplementary funding for Ukraine when the same bill increases funding for Israel, funding that supports the violation of human rights and a more than fifty year occupation of the Palestinian people. And we cannot turn a blind eye from our recent support of Saudi Arabia and its bombardment and blockade of the people in Yemen and other areas in our hemisphere where the US has intervened militarily and with military aid.

It is therefore a time for reflection for us as we discern what we can do to promote our testimonies of Peace, Community, Integrity, and Equality in both our country and across the world. Quaker testimony for over 350 years has affirmed the value of life while actively seeking to build peace among all nations and addressing root causes of violence.

As Quakers we grieve the loss of life from the senseless aggression we are seeing in Ukraine and elsewhere. We know there are people in Russia and Ukraine and throughout the world working tirelessly for peace and reconciliation. We uphold and stand in solidarity with them and call on our elected officials to find the courage to join all peacemakers in the Ukrainian and other conflicts.

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**Contact [peace@scym.org](mailto:peace@scym.org) with questions and comments**