

Muslim Charities Forum's Statement on the Ukraine Crisis.

Muslim Charities Forum (MCF) is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the challenges that the people of Ukraine are now facing due to the unfolding conflict and escalating violence. As it is for many people trapped in areas of political dispute, the impact of war and destruction is already claiming innocent lives with hundreds reported killed or wounded in only a few days.

The greatest cost of war is always to civilian communities. From the destruction of infrastructure to the demolition of homes, forcible displacement, and extreme poverty, it is always those who are helpless and innocent who suffer the most. Even once conflict comes to an end, it can take decades before communities can recover from the devastating effects.

It is predicted that up to 4 million people will flee the country should the situation escalate further (UNHCR). These people will become refugees and join the **82.4 million** people around the world (UNHCR) have been forced to flee their homes due to war and political conflict in other countries.

MCF join the growing global call for an immediate cease of military involvement and escalation.

We call for countries to stand with the people of Ukraine and all caught in war zones, to keep borders open and to offer humanitarian aid where and when it is needed.

We stand with all charities, INGOs and aid agencies in their efforts to provide emergency response and shelter and support for refugees, including here in the UK. As an infrastructure organisation, we support charities working around the world to save and improve the lives of all vulnerable people.

We pray for peace and an end to all wars across the globe.

26th February 2022