Statement
8 March 2022

The Gandhi Development Trust and the Phoenix Settlement Trust have drawn on from Gandhiji’s response to World War II to help us discern a meaningful response to the war in Ukraine and to other wars, conflicts and violent acts that are wreaking havoc today. We proclaim unbiased global solidarity for all the victims of senseless war and for a restoration of peace in Ukraine and across the globe.

Our empathy and solidarity lie with the many in Africa and around the world who are still living through war, while others are trying to rebuild out of the rubble and devastation of war.

The laws of war and international law are meaningless unless, as Gandhiji said, big nations “shed their desire of exploitation and the spirit of violence of which war is the natural expression and the atom bomb the inevitable consequence.” He reminds us that the “atom bomb means utter destruction not merely of the West but of the whole world’. The very notion of the war descending into terrible carnage and the continued use of deadly weapons that can affect several generations of humanity should be a deterrent to all of human beings. It is imperative that we come together in solidarity to bring an end to the carnage and help to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

For too long, the world has lived under the false notion of the necessity of war, but as Gandhiji said and we witness today, there will be no peace in Europe, Asia, the Americas, the Middle East, Africa or the world unless we collectively shed the “belief in the efficacy of war and its accompanying terrible deception and fraud. Our determination should be focused on striving for peace based on freedom and equality of all races and nations. Exploitation and domination of one nation over another can have no place in our world as we continue to strive to end to all wars.

We are an organisation predicated on Gandhian values and principles based in Durban, South Africa. Gandhiji began his practice of Satyagraha and Ahimsa here. This is where he started his first Ashram and called it Phoenix Settlement. We have faith that humanity across the globe can collectively rise from ashes just like the phoenix. We join the call for a daily minute of silence or prayer. We call on ALL across the world to stop whatever they are doing for one minute every day at 15h00 and pray or sit in silence for an end to war and to build peace among all the peoples’ of this earth.

“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always." Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely

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