

PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM INITIATES MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE FOR HEALING IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

The Vatican, 29th September 2023

During his meeting with Pope Francis in the Vatican today, His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem, conveyed the Patriarchate of Jerusalem's commitment to mediation, fostering dialogue and healing in Ukraine and Russia. This initiative aims to address the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the threat of schism within the body of the Orthodox Church.

Acknowledging the profound pain, His Beatitude stated that the Rum Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, as the Mother of all the Churches, emphasises Christian unity and is deeply concerned about the Orthodox Churches worldwide. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and potential schism within the body of the Orthodox Church affects not only Orthodox Christians but the entire Christian world and people of goodwill.

The Patriarchate, rooted in centuries of reconciliation and peace efforts, offers a hand of goodwill and mediation to sisters and brothers in Ukraine and Russia. This initiative seeks to foster dialogue that may bring about an end to suffering and promote healing within the Orthodox family.

Recognising the challenges and deep divisions, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem is committed to the spiritual mission of dialogue and reconciliation. As Saint Paul wrote,

“Christ is our peace,” and the Patriarchate stands ready to assist in any way possible to help end conflict and suffering.

For media enquiries please contact Justin Doherty at jd@hemingtonconsulting.co.uk or +44 (0) 7768 330223.