

March 8, 2022

## Statement Regarding the Russian Army's Invasion of Ukraine

On February 24th, President Putin directed the Russian army to begin a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

We of Buddhist Shinshu Kosho Sect express our deep misgivings and strong concern about the Russian army's invasion of Ukraine ordered by President Putin. We cannot tolerate any use of force or overt threats to use nuclear force.

Through this exercise of force, many precious lives have been lost, injured, and displaced, and daily life is now being destroyed. We sincerely plea that peace will be restored to the many people who have suffered unspeakable anger, fear, and grief. At the same time, we strongly desire an immediate halt to the invasion and a peaceful resolution through dialogue and negotiation.

The mission of our sect is to "strive to contribute to the happiness and peace of humankind," and one of our practices is to "pass on the happiness of mutual understanding with gentle hearts".

We do not seek to build peace through the "balance of power" that now dominates the world, but rather to reflect on the selfishness of humankind, to acknowledge our differences, and to engage in dialogue and negotiation with gentle hearts. We truly believe that this is the only true action that will contribute to the happiness and peace of humankind.

We of the Shinshu Kosho Sect hereby express our determination to seek dialogue and coexistence with all humanity, and to stand with everyone who wishes for peace.

Naoki Hata

Director Religious Affairs, Shinshu Kosho Sect