



The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To: Presbytery Clerks, Ministers, OLMs & Auxiliaries, Interim Moderators & Locums, Readers, the Diaconate, MDS, Ministry Candidates & Probationers, and Session Clerks

Dear All,

Srebrenica Memorial Day - 11 July 2022

<https://srebrenica.org.uk/>

<https://srebrenica.scot>

A cousin of mine, at that time working in a bank, took time off to go out to the Balkans at the height of the conflict there – he still cannot talk about the things he saw. They are a scar on his soul. “How could a civilised society stoop so low?”, was how he described what he saw. He came back to Scotland a changed person, left his career in banking and dedicated his life to helping those incapable of helping themselves – he has no regrets. The Balkans changed the course of his life.

27 years on, we remember, we lament and we pray that such things should never again happen in Europe – in any part of our world. Yet, what will be uncovered eventually in Ukraine? When will we ever learn, as Joan Baez sang so many years ago?

We pray today for all those who carry scars which are deeper than physical from the Balkan conflict.

We pray that those who struggle still with unforgiveness, anger and the horror of memories and images which will not go away – we pray that the Lord might give them peace.

We turn to the Lord in a world where so much conflict still prevails; lives are lost and damaged, consciences are racked by guilt and societies divided. In doing so, we remember the words of Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer:

“Your Kingdom come
Your will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.”

Therein lies our only hope and aspiration as we become, and pray for all those in places of conflict who are, peacemakers.

With every blessing,

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields
Moderator of the General Assembly

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