

## **MEDIA RELEASE: Caritas Australia mourns the loss of two Ukraine staff to attacks in Mariupol**

12 April 2022

Caritas Australia mourns the devastating loss of two of Caritas Ukraine's staff in the Mariupol centre, along with five other people who were sheltering at the office when it was struck by a Russian tank.

"It is with a heavy heart that I mourn the loss of Caritas Ukraine staff in Mariupol, as they sheltered, with others, in the Caritas office. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and pray for our fallen colleagues and all the people whose lives are at risk from the ongoing attacks and violence," said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

"The devastating deaths of our colleagues coincide with a time of pain and sacrifice for our Church. As we find ourselves in the midst of Holy Week, we are reminded of the death and resurrection of Jesus. I have faith that these dark days of turmoil and conflict will come to an end, and that peace and harmony will soon be found."

Mariupol has been under siege since late February, leaving over 400,000 citizens with dwindling access to water, food, lifesaving medicine and electricity. Hundreds of thousands of people have been living without running water or heating in below freezing winter temperatures.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Ukraine and other Caritas agencies on the ground to provide food, hygiene kits, clean water, psychological support, and emergency shelter to families that have been forced from their homes by conflict. Donations can be made at: [www.caritas.org.au/ukraine/](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine/)

In addition, Caritas Australia is supporting the Music for Ukraine charity concert at City Recital Hall, including soprano Katie Noonan, baritone Jose Carbo, Sydney Symphony Concertmaster Andrew Haveron, concert pianist Daniel de Borah and many others. All funds raised from this event will go directly to Caritas agencies on the ground. Tickets are available at [www.cityrecitalhall.com/](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com/)

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**Note:** Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO is available for interview.