

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE

### What does the Bible say?

Violence will no longer resound throughout your land, nor devastation or destruction within your borders. You will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. **(Isaiah 60:18)**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. **(Matthew 5:9)**



### What does the United Methodist Church say?

The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. **(Social Principles ¶163.F)**



We recognize that far from being innocent bystanders, the church has often been deeply involved in colonialism and neocolonialism. We, therefore, call on individuals and congregations to educate themselves about the troubling legacies of colonialism and, where appropriate, to seek repentance for our continued involvement. We urge United Methodists to find ways to support those still suffering from colonial legacies, including tangible acts of reparation and active support for sustainable development initiatives **(Social Principles ¶162.C)**

The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have not seen peace since its independence in 1960. Decades of a corrupt dictatorial government, backed by the U.S. and other Western powers, and war have been their history. A war over the country's vast resources involving nine countries broke out in 1998. Cruelties and atrocities have been inflicted upon its people. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #3223, "Democratic Republic of Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future")**

The country's development cannot be achieved without political stability, accountability, and the active participation of its citizens. Nongovernmental organizations need to be strengthened and given a real voice in the future of their country. Congolese need and deserve support to consolidate peace, construct democracy, save lives, and rebuild their country. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #3223, "Democratic Republic of Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future")**

# PEACE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE

### What do the facts say?



- The war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the bloodiest in modern times. Since 1996, conflict in the DRC has resulted in an estimated 6 million deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- The situation in eastern DRC started to deteriorate in early 2022. The resurgence in armed violence has been compounded by climate-related disasters and disease outbreaks. In 2024, there were about 6.5 million displaced people, including 2.6 million children, in eastern DRC.<sup>2</sup>
- Throughout the conflict, sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war against women. Recent escalating violence in eastern DRC has led to a significant surge in sexual violence, predominantly targeting women and children.<sup>3</sup>
- Since 1996, children and young people have been forcibly recruited by militias operating in the eastern and southern regions of the country. All forms of use of children in armed conflict are illegal according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>4</sup>
- According to the 2025 Human Development Index, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has a low level of human development, ranking 171 out of 193.<sup>5</sup>
- Despite being endowed with exceptional natural resources, the people of the DRC have not benefited from this wealth. DRC is among the five poorest nations in the world. An estimated 73.5% of Congolese people lived on less than \$2.15 a day in 2024. About one in six people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa live in the DRC.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, <sup>2</sup> UNICEF, <sup>3</sup> UN, <sup>4</sup> UNICEF, <sup>5</sup> UNDP, <sup>6</sup> World Bank

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...



- **Educate** yourself and your local community by reading more about the situation in DRC in Resolution #3223: “Democratic Republic of the Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future.”
- **Get involved** in the movement to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the DRC and raise consciousness of the world community on supporting the Congolese by getting involved with the Friends of the Congo: <https://friendsofthecongo.org/>
- **Meet** with your elected officials to advocate for a just peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Sign up** for email alerts focused on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other peace with justice issues at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.

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