

# Pope Francis renews call "to abolish war"



The pope has urged all political leaders to commit to putting an end to war before it erases humanity from history

Pope Francis has highlighted Russia's "invasion" of Ukraine saying humanity should "abolish war, to erase it from human history before it erases man from history."

"More than a month has gone by since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, of the beginning of this cruel and senseless war, that, like every war, represents a defeat for everyone, for everyone of us," the pope told

people in St. Peter's Square at the conclusion of the Sunday Angelus March 27. "We need to reject war, a place of death where fathers and mothers bury their children, where men kill their brothers and sisters without even having seen them, where the powerful decide and the poor die," he said. "War does not devastate the present only, but the future of a society as well. I read that from the beginning of the aggression in Ukraine, one of every two children has been displaced from their country.

"This means destroying the future, causing dramatic trauma in the smallest and most innocent among us. This is the bestiality of war – a barbarous and sacrilegious act!" Francis said, pointing to statistics that show half of all Ukrainian children are now displaced. "War should not be something that is inevitable. We should not accustom ourselves to war. Instead, we need to convert today's anger into a commitment for tomorrow, because if, after what is happening, we remain like we were before, we will all be guilty in some way. "Before the danger of self-destruction, may humanity understand that the moment has come to abolish war, to erase it from human history before it erases human history," Francis said. The pope also urged all political leaders to commit to putting an end to war. "I beg every political leader to reflect on this, to dedicate themselves to this! And, looking on battered Ukraine to understand how each day of war worsens the situation for everyone. Therefore, I renew my appeal: Enough. Stop it. Silence the weapons. Move seriously toward peace," he said.

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