



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

**World Council of Churches concerned at the possible violation of the principles of religious freedom with regard to the anti-church law recently adopted in Ukraine.**



**World Council  
of Churches**

**DECR Communication service, 26.08.2024.**

The World Council of Churches “is deeply alarmed by the potential for unjustified collective punishment of an entire religious community and violation of the principles of freedom of religion or belief under a new law approved by the Ukrainian Rada on 20 August 2024”. This has been reported on the WCC website on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

“We call again on the Ukrainian government to exercise caution in relation to measures that risk violating the fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief and undermining social cohesion at this time of national emergency,” the inter-Christian organization believes. The document points towards to the necessity of paying due attention to the principles of international law and due process in

undertaking any new actions with regard to the new law.

“Neither the crimes of some individuals, nor the historical affiliations of a particular religious entity, can be a sufficient basis for measures tantamount to collective punishment of a living worshipping religious community in Ukraine. The government of Ukraine is responsible for protecting the rights of all its citizens,” the World Council of Churches noted in its statement.

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