Choose Sanity Now for People and the Planet

Our national leaders are making dangerous, lethal choices.

Ukraine: In late 2021 and early 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin amassed troops on the border with Ukraine, and in February, launched a full-scale invasion, in defiance of both morality and international law. In response, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky mobilized for defensive war, risking his country’s destruction, rather than vigorously pursuing a negotiated solution or relying on unarmed civilian defense and nonviolent resistance. U.S. President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders have rushed weapons and advisers to Ukraine in a bid to weaken Russia, prolonging the war and risking escalation into a conflict between the two nuclear-armed camps.¹

In addition to widespread deaths, injuries, and destruction, the war has brought environmental harm, a spike in global prices for energy and commodities, and a worsening food crisis. Among the countries hardest hit by the resulting food shortages are Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia, and South Sudan.²

Climate change: Ignoring the dire predictions of climate scientists, the Biden administration has taken major steps to increase fossil fuel production and consumption, including opening large areas of the Gulf of Mexico and public lands for oil and gas drilling and releasing millions of gallons of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve to moderate price increases.³

Meanwhile, Congress has so far blocked action on effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁴ These choices will have disastrous consequences for a warming planet.

Military spending: The Biden administration and Congress have also chosen unconscionable levels of military spending, with House and Senate committees competing to see which can add more funding to the President’s already record-breaking $813 billion budget request. That request includes over $50 billion in spending on nuclear weapons, much of it for the “modernization” of nuclear warheads and delivery systems.⁵

Rather than funding climate change mitigation and other essential human needs, our leaders are sending huge sums of money to weapons manufacturers, choices with grim consequences for all humanity. As Pope Francis said in Nagasaki, Japan, in 2019,

*The arms race wastes precious resources that could be better used to benefit the integral development of peoples and to protect the natural environment. In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven.*⁶

Write President Biden, your Senators, and your Representative, urging them to adopt saner choices.
1. Stop flooding Ukraine and NATO countries with more and increasingly sophisticated weapons and work urgently to promote a negotiated end to the war in Ukraine. See the April 19, 2022, letter signed by Pax Christi USA and other national faith-based groups.

2. Fund major investments in climate change mitigation, including transitioning from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions. See this fact sheet from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

3. Cut military spending and redirect the funding to address the causes of conflict, injustice, inequity, and environmental catastrophe, as urged in Pax Christi USA’s Bread Not Stones campaign.

4. Cancel spending on new nuclear weapons and adopt policies to reduce the threat of nuclear war, as urged in the Back from the Brink campaign endorsed by Pax Christi USA and others.

To write the President: click here to send an email, or send a hard-copy letter to

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

To write your Senators: click here and choose your state from the drop-down list. On the results page, click on “Contact” under each Senator’s photo to send an email from his or her website.

To write your Representative: click here, enter your ZIP code, and click on “FIND YOUR REP BY ZIP.” On the results page, click on the envelope icon to send an email from your Representative’s website.

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8. See also the Feb. 2, 2022, letter from 81 Christian scholars and leaders urging reductions in military spending and investments in human flourishing.