

**JOINT DECLARATION
of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Great Britain**

On this, the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor, we have gathered here today, in unison with all Ukrainians in our Homeland and the Diaspora, to commemorate the innocent victims of the forced famine. This is the least we can do for our departed brothers and sisters, since it is our responsibility to ensure that the Holodomor will always remain in the minds of future generations.

We must not forget that, despite the loss of their churches, their clergy, their “daily bread” and all sustenance or means to support their lives, these Ukrainians, who loved the rich land that God gave them, never lost their faith, their love, nor their hope in Him, Who is the author of all life.

Imitating Christ Himself, they did not leave their land nor run from their persecutors but rather “like a lamb led to slaughter ... he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people” (Is 53:7-8).

These humble Christians are the personification of living innocence, and innocence without blemish is a precious gift from God that no famine can erase from the face of this earth. It was God’s gift which they in turn have given to us. We dare not forget it, for this innocence is our victory over every evil and our ultimate salvation.

Christian Truth calls upon us to make efforts to spread the knowledge of this tragedy among our own people and also among non-Ukrainians. We all must be informed about this act of genocide, in order that history may never be repeated and that this horrific act may never again be committed against any member of the human race. We must find the strength, in our hearts, to forgive those who played a role in this tragedy. Anger and injustice must not overpower our Christian call to forgive.

As Christians, we are people of hope and, although we cannot turn back the pages of history, we can still work towards a brighter future. Only faith, hope and overwhelming love will help to build a worthy future and prevent the errors of the past.

So let us pray, in the words of the psalmist, that their souls dwell amidst good things [...] and that their memory extends from generation unto generation. (Ps 24:13, 101:12)

London, the 22nd of November 2008

END