

*International Conference*

# RELIGION AND WAR IN UKRAINE

The Political,  
the Public, and  
the Possible

March 14th-16th, 2024

Telus 134 - Telus International Centre  
University of Alberta  
11104 87 Ave NW - Edmonton

In person and online.  
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Session: Religious Organizations and  
Peacemaking, Part I

1:30PM MST, March 16, 2024

## **Identity war in Ukraine: Religion and culture on the battlefield**

Ihor Poshyvailo, Director of the National Museum of Revolution of Dignity (Maidan Museum)

During the 20 months of full-scale war several thousand cultural institutions, architectural, historical, and religious sites have been damaged and almost a thousand destroyed. The most numerous among them are religious buildings: temples, churches, mosques, and synagogues. In March 2022 the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (briefly HERI) was launched by the Maidan Museum and Tustan NGO to respond to this crisis, establishing a wide network of museums, archives, and libraries partnerships, coordinating its activities with the national and international governmental and NGO sectors. The Maidan Museum and HERI produced the exhibit "Destroyed Temples of Ukraine", telling emotional stories of the religious sites and communities impacted by the war. This presentation will focus on details of this exhibition's background, concept, and implementation.

Ihor Poshyvailo is Director of the National Museum of Revolution of Dignity (Maidan Museum) and curator of the "Destroyed Temples of Ukraine" exhibit. He holds a PhD in History (Ethnology) from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Ex-chairman of the Museum Council at the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and the ICOM International Committee on Disaster Resilient Museums. When the full-scale Russian invasion started in February 2022 became initiator, co-founder and coordinator of the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI) and a member of the National Council for the Recovery of Ukraine from the War.