



Following the tragic and unfolding humanitarian disaster that we are witnessing in Ukraine along with the exodus from the country many of us have been asking what can do in order to help.

Three things we would like to commend to you:

**1. Continue to pray.** Below we have included a prayer offered by Pete Greig on the day that Russia invaded Ukraine and we invite you to pray daily.

**2. Give financially and directly.** Can we commend two avenues for such:

**a) via the Church of Scotland.** In a letter from Very Rev Susan Brown of the Faith Impact Forum (see letter and links below) an avenue of direct financial support has been established with the 'Reformed Church in Hungary Aid' organization (RCHA), which is run by our partner, the Reformed Church of Hungary. The RCHA has access to the reformed church in Ukraine who are using their buildings to support the people moving from east to west as they seek safety and sanctuary. They also are working in the border areas of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania using the Reformed Church contacts and buildings there.

Donations can be made to: Royal Bank of Scotland; Church of Scotland No 1 Account.

Account no 00134859 Sort code 83 06 08. **Reference RCHA donation.**

**b) via DEC** – the Disasters Emergency Committee which is an umbrella organization for some 15 recognised and relevant charities including the likes of Christian Aid, Tearfund, Save the Children, etc.

Giving can be via their website at: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Gift Aid can also be applied via both charities.

**3. Donate goods for onward distribution** – recently our local Scouts offered to gather a list of helpful items for onward delivery to the folks in need of such. Likewise the Church of Scotland in Bridge of Allan put out a similar appeal. Both of these avenues for onward distribution of aid have put a hold on collections for the moment as it is becoming clear across the country that getting such aid to the point of need is proving complex.

Should anyone out there know of any organisations that have such logistical avenues worked out and have a list of what would be helpful to gather then please let us know. (Church Office 0131 331 1100; Minister 0773 7910018)

**Thank you for your response in whatever way might be appropriate for you.**

### *A Prayer for the Crisis in Ukraine, by Pete Greig*

Father God, King of all nations, we cry out to You now for the people of Ukraine and especially those who are grieving, dying or displaced. Lord of Lords, rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before You all their days

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Prince of peace, our politicians are predicting that this could be the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and we simply cry out to You to urgently to write another story in our time... Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Holy Spirit, we pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. Give our many brothers and sisters in that nation courage in this crisis that they may proclaim the good news of Your kingdom by Your power, bind up broken hearts with Your compassion, and bring comfort to all who mourn.

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Father of mercy and peace as the Psalmist declared, You make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire (Ps 46:9). So we ask You now to break bombs, shatter missiles and destroy assault rifles. Save the lives of many people. Make a peace that is strong and not weak.

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

We hear of wars and rumours of wars, but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. So we speak and we pray to the nations at this time of such turmoil and we say: ‘Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; he shall be exalted in the earth. ‘(Psalm 46 vs 10)

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Amen. Let it be so.

*Letter from Very Rev Dr Susan Brown: Convenor of the Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum*

1 March 2022

Dear friends

Today as I write to you it is with a heavy heart, hearing the news and speaking directly to partners in Ukraine about the dreadful situation there. It would be easy to feel powerless but there are several things we can do to help.

We have been in touch with partners in the region, and with the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and others to ascertain the best way to offer help.

The Rev. Balázs Ódor, Ecumenical Officer for the Reformed Church in Hungary, has been in direct contact with us and we have been able to contact the Bishop’s Office in the Reformed Church in Carpathian Ukraine, and some congregations in Ukraine. It is good to take just a little time to do this so that the right kind of help is given in a way in which it can be used on the ground where it is needed most.

From these contacts, we suggest that you might share through Presbytery networks and with congregations the opportunity to give, via the Church of Scotland, to Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RCHA), which is run by our partner, the Reformed Church of Hungary.

The RCHA has access to the Reformed church in Ukraine who are using their buildings to support the people moving from east to west as they seek safety and sanctuary. They also are working in the border areas of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania using the Reformed Church contacts and buildings there.

They are providing daily updates and you can see more Information here:  
<https://reformatus.hu/english/news/emergency-response-for-ukraine/>

Through RCHA you can support those fleeing from the east and coming to the west of Ukraine where they can be helped through the churches there; those in the west already who don't have access to their money when the banks run out and who will need food/help; and those who cross the borders into Hungary, Slovakia or Romania.

**Your donations can be directed to the following account:**

Royal Bank of Scotland  
Church of Scotland No 1 Account  
Account no 00134859  
Sort code 83 06 08  
**Reference RCHA donation**

Please gift aid this if possible.

**St Columba's, Budapest**

We have also heard from our Church of Scotland congregation in Budapest who have opened their church and the mission centre up to give sanctuary and a place of rest to refugees as they journey through. In the centre last night were women and children and in the church were 15 Nigerian students who had travelled solidly for 3 days to get to safety. Rev Aaron Steven and his congregation are seeking to provide a 24-hour service of love and care to those that need them also. Please keep them in your prayers also.

**The Reformed Church in Poland**

The Reformed Church in Poland, while small, is doing what it can to support those arriving in Poland.

Some Parishes are hosting refugees. One is trying to create a retreat and recovery centre for traumatised people. The congregation in Łódź, where there are already 250,000 Ukrainians living, is cooperating with a Roman Catholic foundation, and seeking to support children and students living and studying there.

We keep all in our prayers.

With best wishes  
Very Rev Dr Susan Brown  
Convener Faith Impact Forum