

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.

[Prayer for Peace - Wednesday, March 2, 4-5pm UK Time](#)

There is no doubt that we are all praying for the people who are caught up in the situation and for peace in the region. You may like to join with the World Communion of Reformed Church for the ecumenical peace prayer for Ukraine on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 5-6 pm CET (4-5pm UK Time). Please distribute the invitation as widely as possible and register using the following link:

http://wcrch.ch/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ash_Wednesday_Peace_Service_Ukraine.pdf.

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.

Please feel free to email Carol on cfinlay@churchofscotland.org.uk if you have any questions,

With best wishes

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown
Convener Faith Impact Forum

Reformed Church in Transcarpathia

<https://reformatus.hu/english/news/circular-in-times-of-war-stay-where-you-are/>

WCRC

http://wcrch.ch/news/communion-providing-relief-for-ukraine?fbclid=IwAR3TX_rilvZQpH-8QL5U66rdbHRvCV8Q7G1DIZQ3vOvbRnTvZIU3ZvgWtWM

The Presbytery of Glasgow
260 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4JP
0141 332 6606
glasgow@cofscotland.org.uk