"Amen, I say unto you, whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me." Mt. 25, 40

# Ukraine Up date.

No. 4 3rd March I 2022



## Up date from the Ukraine

#### DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

It is the eighth day of the war, the 3rd of March 2022. With each new day it is more and more difficult for me to find the right words. It also takes longer and longer for me to find them. Between finally putting down two thoughts on paper, phone calls are made, Telegram, Messenger, emails guickly answered: Yes, a Demeter farm can take a women with two small children. Good! The Community in Vienna can take a family of seven. Good. No, the poor people from the Waldorf School in Dnipro have not yet crossed the border: their car has broken down and the children are sick. There are 10 children. No, the car with food won't get to Odessa after all. The driver is worried about a possible attack. Yes, the doctors from the Filderklink in Stuttgart are helping with medical supplies and are being driven to the Polish border. Wonderful! So, first of all, I would like to thank everyone! Donations are being collected, accommodation are being organised, some of our communities are also active and preparing the necessary accommodations. We are trying to join forces in such a way that we have a contact person in each region, and are still looking for some. This will be announced soon. But you can always contact the local Priests. We are working together with the ELINOR network, which is coordinated by Waldorf Friends in Berlin. Our youth like Richard Ulrich and Raphaela Pöllmann are intensively involved. Richard coordinates accommodation for refugees and Raphaela drives what is necessary to the Polish border. A living network is forming. This rapid help is vital. They save lives. Conditions at the Polish border in Przemysl are terrible and doctors, including paediatricians from abroad, are urgently needed. A doctor who is currently helping at the Ukrainian-Polish border told us: "It is difficult to say exactly what is needed. It seems to me, that there are neither enough staff nor enough medical supplies to treat sick children, and there is also a lack of syringes and injection equipment. I will do the first shift tonight in a gym and will see what happens there. Kind regards Thomas Neumann" Evgenia Naumenko from the Filderklinik is also organising and helping on all fronts. Perhaps more doctors can be found.

The Ukrainian doctors are working day and night. There is a great shortage of medical care, but food is also becoming scarce. The western areas of Ukraine are continuously supplying the eastern, heavily bombed areas and, of course, Kyiv. Some towns and villages are cut off from supplies and people are trapped. The international aid

organisations on the ground are not present themselves. They are helping from afar through donations to the Ukrainian branches and their staff. That is why a lot of civilians have to travel with their vans and cars to keep things going. They transport food and medicine where it is needed. They also bring back people to safety whose houses have been bombed.

A heavy Russian bombing raid on Mariupol killed many children and women. Mariupol is burning. In Shytomyr, a missile hit a maternity home.

Kharkiv, beautiful Kharkiv.... On some streets there is only rubble and ash. Lonely in the black smoke, a monument looks over the ruins. Food is becoming scarce. Kyiv is heavily bombed. It is difficult to get from one River bank to the other. 400 people, mostly women with children, have been rescued from the bombed out houses. Many are on the run.

In Enerhodar, Zaporizhia region, hundreds of people have lined the streets in front of the Russian tanks. They wanted to protect not only their town, but also the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. They did not let anyone pass. People stood close together along a the road, knowing that if the power plant fell into enemy hands, it would be the end of their homeland.

Yesterday at the Theatre in Cologne there was a live broadcast from various places in Ukraine. We spoke with writers Yuri Andrukhovych and Andriy Kurkov, and also with the director of the Kyiv State Drama Theatre Andriy Mai, who is now trapped in Kherson. Andriy returned to his hometown because he has his old mother and his four-year-old son there. But suddenly came the fierce siege on the city. He told us, sitting in the basement, that people were not allowed to go out on the streets. Some were directly shot while trying to get food. Russian soldiers do not let anyone pass. Everything is closed: groceries stores and pharmacies. These stories left everyone speechless. No one even dared to ask the question: how can we help? So it went silent for a while. It was stuffy and hot. The Theatre became a cellar hole. And cellar hole, where Andriy sat, became a spine-chilling Theatre piece. Only we all knew it was reality. Soon we will leave this place. But he will not.

With kind regards

#### YAROSLAVA BLACK

#### P.S. You may of course pass on these reports

## In pictures



Bucha near Kyiv





Bucha near Kyiv

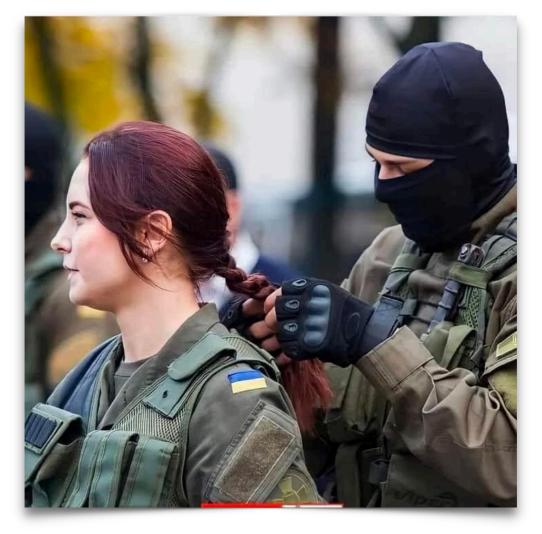


Yesterday, poets and actors - Today, soldiers



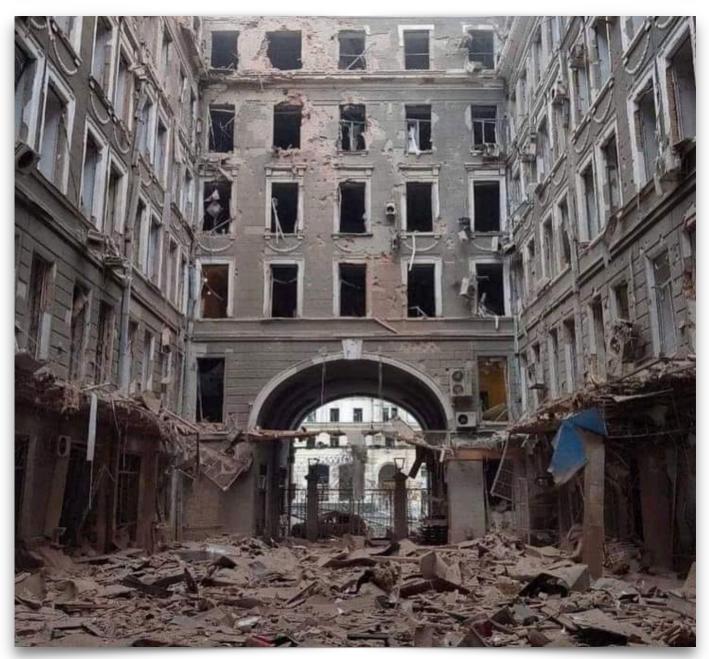


Everyday life in war





Destruction in Kharkiv





Unarmed citizens block Russian troops' access to nuclear power plant in Enerhodar, Zaporizhia



#### How can you help?

#### Donate

1.) Donations to support refugees and humanitarian aid in connection with the war can please be transferred to the account of the West German Region of the Christian Community with a corresponding reference in the purpose of use:

Account holder: Die Christengemeinschaft IBAN: DE96 3702 0500 0008 2597 00; BLZ/BIC: 37020500 / BFSWDE33XXX Or:

Account holder: Die Christengemeinschaft in Deutschland (Foundation) IBAN: DE16 8502 0500 0003 6204 00: BLZ/BIC: 8502 0500 /BFSW DE33 DRE

#### **Taking in refugees**

2.) You can register **here** online with the initiative of the **Elinor Network** and **GLS Bank** if you want to offer accommodation in Germany. We work closely with them.

#### **Waldorf Helps Ukraine**

3.) If you are able to take in children from Ukraine in your school now and if you have the possibility to take in families in the vicinity of your school, among parents, acquaintances, please register <u>here</u>.

Our services include: Accommodation, transport, therapeutic support and the arrangement of school and childcare places.

#### **Donations in kind**

4.) If you would like to give donations in kind please contact the **Blue and Yellow Cross <u>here</u>**. We know these people personally. They are a reliable partner.











Odessa, central market. On the cardboard: "Those who cannot pay are welcome to help themselves".

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### Thank you for all your support, good thoughts and prayers!

Black & Black Production