

EMERGENCY APPEAL: UKRAINE CRISIS



ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE ACT ALLIANCE

22 March 2022

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A-81922 / EM22-MAR-UKR-DM1-CH-ACV
Highton St Lukes Sunday School
174 Barrabool Rd
HIGHTON VIC 3216



The Russian invasion of Ukraine
has created a humanitarian crisis.

Dear Highton St Lukes Sunday School,

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis unlike anything seen in Europe since World War II – and throughout the history of the Christmas Bowl.

According to the UN refugee agency, in just over a week **more than 1.5 million refugees have already fled their homes in Ukraine** to neighbouring countries. And **millions more people could become refugees**, forced from their homes and their loved ones if the fighting continues.

As you may know, we've launched an emergency appeal to support the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and I hope that you will find time during this busy season to take part. This is a situation we must respond to together.

The simplest way to help is to hand out giving envelopes.

Would you **please distribute the enclosed giving envelopes** to your congregation and **take up a special offering** for the people of Ukraine devastated by this emergency?

These gifts will help support the work of the ACT Alliance, an initiative of the World Council of Churches, to provide urgently needed food, medicine and temporary shelter to displaced families.

You may also share this link with members of your congregation to **give online:**
www.afp.org.au/ukrainecrisis

Act for Peace has developed a poster and clipart, enclosed in this mailing, which you may wish to display on your church noticeboard.

*Additional materials including worship resources (these include a selection of prayers for use in your services) and Powerpoints, as well as information on how to hold an open plate collection are available on the Act for Peace website: **actforpeace.org.au/helpukraine***

over please...

www.actforpeace.org.au | T. 1800 025 101 | E. info@actforpeace.org.au
Locked Bag Q199, QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING NSW 1230

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN: 86 619 970 188

I have written to thousands of churches across Australia. I am asking you and the members of your church to join us as we respond to Christ's call to love our neighbour.

Your congregation has been faithful and generous supporters of the Christmas Bowl and Act for Peace's work over many years. I pray that you are moved by the Spirit and heed God's call to help displaced families forced from their homes by this horrific conflict.

Our ACT Alliance partners in neighbouring Hungary have already sent truckloads of relief to support families forced from their homes by the war.

The shipments include 28 tonnes of canned food, flour, sugar, oil, rice, pasta, biscuits, long-life milk, tea and hygiene products which will be distributed at the Beregszász and Uzhhorod reception centres in Western Ukraine. But much, much more is needed.

While I know it's an incredibly busy time for churches with Lenten preparations taking place, this senseless violence in Ukraine is causing an urgent need.

I was reflecting on this week's Psalm, Psalm 91, and the words of the Psalmist really struck me, especially those in verse five.

“You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day.”

Those words took on new meaning as I heard the reports from our ecumenical partners telling us of families hiding, and mothers comforting terrified children as they shelter from the missiles of invading forces. It is my prayer that these resilient people stay safe and are able to take refuge in the Lord.

If you would like to take further action as a church, please consider dedicating a service to the people of Ukraine. Our local partner, Hungarian Interchurch Aid, shared the story of a young Ukrainian mother of three who described her family's journey to Hungary's Berehovo border crossing (you may wish to share this story with your congregation):



Antonia* (10) holds Galyna* (3) at the Ukrainian-Hungarian border on 2nd March, 2022. Antonia fled with her family from near the Crimean Peninsula. She brought with her one toy and a colouring book, which she has already given to another child who had no toys at all.



Our ACT Alliance partners on the ground distributing 28 tonnes of aid to families displaced by the war. Much, much more is needed.

“My husband is on the frontlines. The women of my family have decided to take our children away from danger. By the time we were leaving Kherson we heard that Dnipro was being bombed so we had to take a different way.

My children were asking where are we going and I couldn't come up with an answer. We heard that the Polish border is completely jammed, so we decided to cross the mountains and try to make it into Hungary.

My sister is still on the way, I have no idea where she or my nieces are.”

*Names have been changed.

Sadly, this story is far from unique. Hundreds of thousands more families will need urgent help as they are forcibly displaced from their homes in Ukraine.

We at Act for Peace condemn this invasion, and our hearts are with the people of Ukraine and Russia who have been suddenly caught in a war they didn't want, or even believe was possible.

It's too soon to know what will happen, but I do know that Act for Peace is working closely with our ecumenical partners on the ground who remain committed to serving the people affected. And that right now, they need our help to support families forcibly displaced by this crisis.

Please pray for those impacted by this conflict and Act for Peace's partner on the ground who is working to provide the practical and emotional support these families so desperately need.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and compassion during this difficult time.

If you have written your own prayers, please email them to me at acorkill@actforpeace.org.au so we can share them with other churches around the country.

Thank you for your support and prayers for the people of Ukraine.

In Peace,



Andy Corkill
Act for Peace

PS. A gift of \$250 could help provide medicine and non-food items for people who have fled with nothing.



**Need more giving envelopes?
Contact us on 1800 025 101**

PLEASE
GIVE
TODAY

EMERGENCY APPEAL: UKRAINE CRISIS BANKING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for taking part in the Ukraine Crisis appeal in your church. If you collect gifts and would like to send them in as a collection from your church, please follow the instructions below. You can also contact our team at 1800 025 101 or info@actforpeace.org.au

1 STEP 1: How to sort your gifts

For giving envelopes that have been returned to you with a cheque or credit card details, please send these back to us intact in the envelope provided, so we can record the details and provide a tax receipt to each person for their gift.

For giving envelopes that have been returned to you that contain cash, and any other cash donations collected through an open plate collection, you can deposit the cash directly into our account at any ANZ branch. Alternatively you can deposit the cash into your account and then make a payment to us online or by cheque.

2 STEP 2: Payment of cash gifts (Choose from the following three options)

1) Cheque:

Send a cheque with your completed remittance form and deposit slip payable to 'Act for Peace Ltd' and post to us at:

Ukraine Emergency Appeal
Act for Peace – NCCA
Reply Paid 66886
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1229

2) Bank deposit:

Deposit the cash into our account at your local ANZ branch.

Please ask the bank teller to include the reference: helpukraine

and your church's A-81922 (e.g. A-xxxxx-helpukraine) with the deposit.

3) Online transfer:

Transfer the money online to our account.

Please include the reference: helpukraine and your church's A-81922 (e.g. A-xxxxx-helpukraine) as the description in the transaction.

ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Account Name: Act for Peace Ltd
BSB: 012 332
Acct. No.: 2323 75215

3 STEP 3: Complete the remittance form

Please complete the remittance form overleaf (along with the bank stamp or receipt if depositing at the bank), and include together with all envelopes (including for cash gifts) and cheques and post it back to us in the reply paid envelope provided to:

Ukraine Emergency Appeal
Act for Peace – NCCA
Reply Paid 66886
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1229

Please complete and return your form, envelopes and gifts as soon as you are able. Thank you for your gifts that will help support the people of Ukraine devastated by this emergency.

Any queries? Please phone us on 1800 025 101 or email info@actforpeace.org.au

**PLEASE
GIVE
TODAY**

EMERGENCY APPEAL: UKRAINE CRISIS REMITTANCE FORM

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



Please refer to instructions overleaf and return to us as soon as you are able. Thank you again for your support!

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A-81922 / EM22-MAR-UKR-DMI-CH-ACV
Highton St Lukes Sunday School
c/o The Minister
174 Barrabool Rd
HIGHTON VIC 3216

Your supporter ID number: A-81922

Name of person preparing this remittance: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone number: (____) _____ Email: _____

We enclose:

	Total amount (AU\$)	Total number of giving envelopes
Open plate / Anonymous gifts		
Individual cash gifts		
Individual cheque gifts		
Individual credit card gifts		
TOTAL		

OFFICE USE ONLY
Received
Log
Statements
Items
ID
Processed
Batch

Please deposit all cash gifts into Act for Peace Ltd's ANZ account and enclose all giving envelopes listed above. Credit card gifts will be processed by our accounts team.

Bank Stamp Reserving recourse on all documents	
CB21	TELLER



Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited

Bondi Westfield Shop 1032-33, Level 1, 500 Oxford St, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

With recourse on all documents. Proceeds of cheques, etc unavailable until cleared. Accepted on the condition that any marking specifying that the deposit is to be applied to a particular drawing is not binding on ANZ. ANZ is not responsible for delays in transmission if lodged at another bank or branch. This remittance will be transferred under the bank's internal procedures. Cheques etc. will not be available until collected.

CREDIT

Teller	No. Items	Paid in by (signature)	Tfr. fee	Notes	DATE
				Coins	
				Chqs	
for CREDIT of	ACT FOR PEACE LTD		60	\$	
	ABN 86 619 970 188				



A-81922