

Joint press release from the Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG:

The Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG, the mission agency, are launching an emergency appeal to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Our partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.

The appeal is for urgent help now but the work will go on for many months.

The Church of England's Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd Robert Innes says: "War is horrible. It injures, destroys and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.

"The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others.

"Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help."

USPG's General Secretary, the Revd Duncan Dormor, adds: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine at this profoundly difficult time. At USP we are deeply aware of the work of the churches mobilising to support those who are suffering."

"So, we have launched this appeal in partnership with the Diocese in Europe to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support church responses to the current crisis."

The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York says: "Prayer changes our hearts and it changes our resolve. At the start of this season of Lent, many of us will be thinking about the things we can do to follow Jesus more closely. "

"One of the things we can do is to play our part in receiving and supporting refugees who are living with the horror of this conflict in Ukraine and its consequences. Please support USP's call for generous humanitarian aid and support.!

More than a million refugees have fled the war in Ukraine. They have left everything behind to escape conflict. Christian charities and churches need help now as they support these people in all aspects of their lives."

To donate to the Ukraine emergency appeal, visit www.uspg.org.uk/ukraine

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- USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. Established in 1701. For more information on USPG please go to: www.USPG.org.uk.
- The Church of England Diocese in Europe has more than 140 churches (Chaplaincies) and 300 congregations spread across 42 countries across Europe, North Africa and Turkey. Â Amongst these are chaplaincies in Kyiv, Riga, Budapest, Warsaw, Prague, Belgrade, Bucharest, Moscow and St Petersburg. Â Â
- For more information about the Diocese in Europe, visit <https://europe.anglican.org> or email: Communications@europe.anglican.org
- Since 2015 the Diocese in Europe and USPG have been working together to respond to the needs of refugees across Europe. Working ecumenically, we have enabled the distribution of food and hygiene items, translation provision, legal support, psychosocial care, and accommodation for unaccompanied minors among others. Â Recent projects include work in Greece and in Calais.
- For further information, please email communications@uspg.org.uk

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