

## GENERAL SYNOD

### The War in Ukraine

#### Summary

Russia's invasion of Ukraine marks a defining moment in the reshaping of the geopolitical order. This is not just another regional war: it represents a rupture in Russia-West relations that will have profound repercussions for Europe and the world, and in turn the Church's witness. Russia's repudiation of the Western-led rules-based order, signals new divisions in Europe and with it the growing bifurcation of the world into two hostile, competing camps. The crystallisation of a Russian-China alliance, which is anti-western and authoritarian, challenges democratic norms and invites a retreat from globalisation. In a world which is more dangerous and unstable, the Church must revisit what it means to be a peacemaker and what it means to work for the reconciliation of humanity to God.

This Report reviews Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent international response. Attention is given to how the Church has signalled its own opposition to the invasion while providing humanitarian support to those affected. Both Archbishops have signalled publicly that the "horrific and unprovoked attack" constitutes an "act of great evil". The Report also surfaces emerging concerns regarding the war's prosecution and the anxiety that it might culminate in a nuclear conflagration. Consideration is given to the war's economic costs and how that is exacerbating inequalities and insecurities both at home and abroad. Appendix 1 provides a background to the religious dimensions to the conflict and the intricacies of intra-orthodox politics. Appendix 2 and 3 details humanitarian work undertaken by Christian Aid and USPG.

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#### Financial, Cultural and Religious Sanctions

1. In response to Russia's (re-)invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the UK, EU and US and other Western allies responded with coordinated financial measures and trade restrictions targeting Russia's financial sector, strategic sectors of the economy such as defence and aerospace and individuals close to the regime. The US, Canada and the United Kingdom have banned Russian energy imports while the EU has pledged to end its dependence on Russian gas. The UK and its allies have indicated that sanctions will continue to be introduced on a rolling basis. A range of companies have pulled out of Russia, while many investors have divested. Societies have, seemingly organically, imposed a cultural and sporting boycott on Russia, the breadth of which has not been seen since the apartheid era sanctions against South Africa.
2. The measures taken by the UK and its allies are unprecedented and amount to a full scale financial and cultural warfare. Despite the speed with which these measures have been introduced, their overall objective remains unclear. Is the aim to punish Russia or to change Russia's behaviour or even its regime? The lack of clarity creates ambiguity, invites mission creep and risks strategic miscalculation. It is uncertain how long these sanctions will last. If Russia were to declare an end to the war, having decided to annex territory occupied in the east of Ukraine, governments would face difficult decisions about which sanctions to maintain and for how long.
3. Although sanctions are a blunt instrument, the effect of which is normally measured over the long term – it took decades for sanctions against apartheid South Africa to have effect - their impact on the Russian economy is real with inflation running at

over 20% and its GDP expected to contract by over 10% this year. Questions arise as to whether the indiscriminate nature of these measures, which target not just the government and senior officials but all Russians, helps Ukraine and how much it just hurts the Russian people? Given the Russian government's authoritarian nature, insufficient democratic space exists for Russians to exercise their opposition to the war. Imposing punitive measures which affect all Russians, whatever their view, risks provoking resentment and fuelling nationalism.

4. Questions such as these will become more pronounced the longer the war persists. For the moment, however, Bishops have supported the sanctions package. They have also pressed the Government to take measures to strip illicit Russian money from the UK financial system and to end the way that this money has been put to use in extending patronage and influence across a wide sphere of the British establishment. The inclusion of a second Economic Crime Bill in the Queen's Speech is a positive step, but bodies like Transparency International indicate that even with this Bill significant gaps will remain in Britain's defences against dirty money.
5. Following the invasion, the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pension Board exited all of its current holdings in Russian companies and have made no further investments in Russian companies. This decision was taken in line with its established policy on investments in occupied and disputed territories. Prior to this decision, holdings across portfolios in Russian companies represented approximately 0.16% of total investment. No investments were held in Russian sovereign debt. Meanwhile, Total, the French energy company, has announced it will stop buying Russian crude and diesel following pressure from investors, including the Pensions Board and Commissioners.
6. The Russian Orthodox Church has not escaped censure for its alleged support of the war. In May, the EU imposed a travel and asset ban on Patriarch Kirill for his support of the invasion. While the Russian Orthodox Church suspended its membership of the Conference of European Churches over 15 years ago on doctrinal differences, there have been no formal moves as yet to suspend the Russian Orthodox Church from the World Council of Churches. Despite the deep disappointment, even anger, that many feel with the support Patriarch Kirill has offered the Russian government – Pope Francis has warned Patriarch Kirill of becoming the Kremlin's 'altar boy' - such a move remains unlikely given the high threshold of votes needed to trigger such action. The WCC is a global ecumenical body that includes many churches from non-European countries that have remained unaligned in this conflict. At a time of renewed international division, the WCC provides a vehicle for critical dialogue and engagement. This space will become more valuable the longer the conflict persists and the more the world divides into opposing camps.
7. The relationship between the Anglican Chaplaincy in Moscow and the Russian Patriarchate remains good, with offers of help from the Patriarchate to the Chaplain should he need it. The Chaplaincy is not unaffected by sanctions on Russia. Diplomatic channels also remain open between the Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury and that of Patriarch Kirill. Episcopal channels remain open with the Russian Ambassador on a range of issues, such as the role of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno Karabakh. No decision has yet been made about inviting the Russian Orthodox Church to attend the Lambeth Conference or not. This decision resides with the Archbishop of Canterbury. No steps have been taken to make any canonical judgement about the status of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Kyiv Patriarchate) as this is an intra orthodox question that remains unresolved, but consideration is being given to bringing it, even if only informally, into the Church's ecumenical contacts.

### **Military Assistance to Ukraine**

8. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine several NATO members, including Britain, have supplied lethal weapons to Ukraine. The UK government has been clear that there is no prospect of any UK or NATO forces providing active military support in Ukraine itself and no NATO country has proposed putting troops on the grounds. The government has remained coy about the scale and type of weaponry supplied, citing 'operation security reasons', but it has made clear that any support is for short range and clearly defensive capabilities and that they do not constitute strategic weapons that pose a threat to Russia itself. Throughout the conflict the government has been cognisant of the risks of miscalculation and how existential the situation could quickly become if parties miscalculate and things escalate unnecessarily.
9. Ukraine has a legitimate right to self-defence and to seek international assistance in doing so. This objective is at variance with the emphasis given in some quarters to militarily defeating Russia or degrading Russia's military such that it no longer poses a strategic threat. If this latter objective gains currency it risks seeing Britain being drawn into a protracted proxy war with Russia that could compound significantly the war's costs to Ukraine and its people. It would be morally problematic to oppose a reasonable agreement to end the war and spare the people of Ukraine further terrible suffering in the hope of securing additional advantage through a protracted conflict. The overarching aim must be to end the war as soon as possible on terms that reflect Ukraine's sovereign independent status. The long term goal should be that Ukraine controls all its territory, but it does not necessarily follow that military force should be used to liberate Crimea or even all of the eastern Donbas region. Some of these goals might be better served through diplomacy and the selective easing of sanctions.
10. A situation in which NATO moves from assisting Ukraine to defend itself, to one with a wider geo-strategic objective is perhaps the surest of ways to invite strategic miscalculation. President Putin has a track record, when feeling cornered, of doubling down rather than backing down. This character trait allied to a nuclear doctrine which has as its central tenet the concept of 'escalate to de-escalate' - a concept that allows Russia the limited first use of non-strategic nuclear weapons in order to end a low-level conventional conflict in their favour - is a dangerous combination. It is worth remembering the number of times during the Cold War when a nuclear exchange was avoided because of the wisdom and caution shown by statesmen on both sides. Similar responsible statecraft is vital today. The US, Russia, France and the UK made a public commitment with China, back in January 2022 that since "a nuclear war cannot be won, it should never be fought". This commitment needs to be honoured.
11. Weakening Russia militarily can be no substitute for the longer term objective of negotiating with Russia a more far reaching security treaty and framework for Europe more broadly. There can be no workable arrangements beyond war and crisis if Russia is not involved in a major way. Such an effort needs to avoid the missteps in NATO/Russian relations that have occurred since the end of the Cold War and avoid, as has happened so often in Europe, of negotiating a peace that sows the seeds for a future conflict. Though nothing can excuse or justify what President Putin has done, Western policy makers have treated Russia as the

defeated Cold War power and all too often sought to subordinate Russian influence in Europe. They have often implied that membership of NATO and/or the EU is synonymous with belonging to Europe. The Diocese in Europe reminds us that Russia is very much part of Europe.

### **Responding to the humanitarian crisis**

12. The war in Ukraine has caused the largest mass movement of people in Europe since 1945. 7.7 million people have been internally displaced inside Ukraine while an estimated 15.7 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection. More than 5 million people, mostly women and children have fled the country. 5 months into the war the intensity of the fighting continues to trigger fear and large-scale displacement inside Ukraine and to neighbouring countries, while simultaneously exacerbating the humanitarian needs of those who are internally displaced or remain in heavily affected areas. As the war continues to morph so the needs of those affected by the crisis will change.
13. The Church is responding to the wider humanitarian effort in 2 ways. The Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) appeal, which brings together 15 leading UK aid charities, including Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD and World Vision, has issued an emergency appeal for Ukraine. This Appeal has raised over £300 million. Complementary to the DEC appeal, USPG and the Diocese in Europe launched an appeal to aid those in need. This appeal has raised over £200,000 and is being used to support the front-line relief work of Anglican chaplaincies across Europe. Details of both appeals are set out in Appendix 2 and 3.

#### *The refugee picture in the UK*

14. The UK, unlike the EU and other states, did not waive visas – that is to say it did not open its borders to Ukrainians but instead introduced two defined visa routes to allow Ukrainians to enter the country. It is important to note that these are not strictly speaking refugee schemes – though we use that term as shorthand. Ukrainians coming over are not being offered refugee status or protections, but a visa which will give them up to 3 years leave to remain in the UK with access to the welfare state and benefits, including healthcare and education, and full access to employment.
15. There are two visa routes. Unlike other refugee schemes, neither are capped - the UK will accept as many as apply. There is a family scheme. This allows permanently settled Ukrainians in the UK, or British citizens with Ukrainian relatives to bring their relatives over, with the assumption being the relative in the UK will be responsible for their accommodation. As of the 11th of May there have been 37,500 visas issued on this scheme, and 19,500 Ukrainians have arrived.
16. The other scheme is the 'Home for Ukraine' scheme. This scheme requires a UK sponsor and Ukraine beneficiary to apply jointly with the UK sponsor providing 6 months rent free accommodation. This scheme opened several weeks later than the family scheme and got off to a slow start but has (again as of 11th May) now seen 64,800 visas issued and 26,600 confirmed arrivals in the country.

#### *Church response to the refugee crisis*

17. On the 15th of March the Church published a toolkit on responding to Ukraine. This toolkit which has been updated regularly as government guidance has changed includes information and advice on how to give, act and pray in relation to the

invasion of Ukraine, including details and advice on how to be involved in sponsorship schemes. It also contains prayer and theological resources for churches. Also, on the 15th of March and also on the Church of England's 'War in Ukraine' page on the website the Church published safeguarding considerations for those considering being involved in the sponsorship scheme. This has been supplemented further with a checklist and guidance which has been sent to all dioceses on things to bear in mind before starting sponsorship arrangements.

18. The Church's National Community Sponsorship Representative (Domenica Pecoraro) and Home Affairs Adviser (Ben Ryan) hosted an information evening for churches with an interest in engaging with sponsorship. Both have also been available to provide advice and contact between dioceses and government officials as the schemes have continued to evolve and be refined. Individual dioceses have operated different systems according to local need and links on sponsorship arrangements. Several dioceses have partnered with Citizens UK to provide matching at scale between potential hosts and guests. Others have encouraged matching through links with the local Ukrainian community or via partners including Refugees at Home and RESET.
19. In June, with support from ecumenical partners and in dialogue with government officials the Church submitted a proposal to government to provide a safety net scheme. This would seek to support Local Authorities with a list of approved back up hosts for situations where the original match between sponsor and guest has broken down. This was designed with government officials and other stakeholders in response to a growing awareness of breakdowns in matching which were leaving Ukrainian guests homeless and putting an additional strain on local government. We are awaiting further details on how this might proceed.

## **A European conflict with unintended global consequences**

20. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is exacerbating food and energy security. International food and fuel prices have increased sharply since the onset of the conflict. Together, Russia and Ukraine supply 30 percent of wheat and 20 percent of maize to global markets. The conflict has cut-off supplies from Ukraine's ports with the result that global food prices are almost 30% higher than the same time last year. By pushing up local inflation, high costs of imported energy reduces consumers' purchasing power and poor households' access to food.
21. The effect of this squeeze on household income is already evident in the UK with a notable increase in families relying on food banks, but it is also being felt in poorer countries, especially those already facing financial stress because of COVID. The UK public are broadly supportive of the Government's handling of the conflict, but this could change if the resulting economic uncertainty becomes drawn out. The political repercussions of this situation on poor and middle-income countries should not be underestimated. When food prices rose in 2008 it sparked the Arab Spring and in turn the Syrian civil war. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sown the seeds of a crisis that will be felt well beyond Europe's border, but if left unaddressed could see increased refugee flows to Europe from North Africa and the Middle East.
22. All of this poses a distinct set of challenges to the Church. Beyond the impact the conflict might have on Church giving, its repercussions require a joined-up response from the Church that does not seek to play the domestic off against the international, but rather recognises that international solidarity with Ukraine needs to be matched with a national solidarity to ensure that those most in need can stay warm and do not go hungry. It requires the Church to be aware of the broader

picture and ensure that a concern with Ukraine does not crowd out a response to others, further afield, also affected by the crisis. Whatever the economic pressures faced by their own electorates, western governments must now help crisis-hit emerging and developing countries far better than they have done in the fight against Covid. Those with the broadest shoulders must be encouraged to bear the greater costs.

### **Long term policy implications**

23. Whatever happens in Ukraine over the coming months, the war will have long-term implications that reach far beyond its border. Even if the world looks increasingly divided into opposing and hostile camps, it will be important to find new ways of cooperation to resolve some of the common challenges, like climate change, that humanity faces. Western governments need to avoid linking the entire relationship with Russia to its actions in Ukraine, given that Russia can affect other Western interests, such as limiting the nuclear and missile capabilities of Iran and North Korea. Protecting the possibility of selective cooperation will require sophisticated and nuanced diplomacy.
24. For the UK, the war presents some tough strategic decisions. The 2020 Integrated Defence and Security Review, which gave shape and substance to the Government's post-Brexit understanding of Global Britain, signalled a pivot away from Europe to the Indo-Pacific and a corollary investment in cyber security. At the moment, Britain's armed forces are at their smallest since the Napoleonic Wars, and Britain has no framework Treaty with the EU to cooperate on defence and security matters.
25. If European security is now the pressing national security priority for the UK, then this will require a realignment of policies and resources. At the moment, there are too many priorities chasing too little cash. More importantly, the UK will need to find new forums beyond NATO for agreeing European security. The transformations taking pace in European defence spending and thinking could see Britain wielding less influence in NATO if it cannot find a better way to work with the EU. Britain needs a new framework that seeks to work with the EU on security, as well as through other NATO and other European security structures.
26. These shifts pose opportunities as well as risks for the Church. The fluidity of events and the reopening of debates considered settled, invites a reimagining of Britain's role in Europe and the world. While there will be a renewed focus on defence and security, such a focus should not crowd out wider considerations of what constitutes the European and global common good. Nor should it foreclose efforts to advance discussions on issues such as nuclear disarmament or geographical concerns like South Sudan where the Church has long standing concerns, but which might find less public and political bandwidth.

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## Appendix 1 Ukraine: National and Religious Identity

1. There is a religious dimension to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is easy to spot but less easy to understand. In this short brief there are three important dates: 988, 1686 and 2018. The central question is whether the church and people of Ukraine are or are not part of the church and people of Russia.

### *The Baptism of Rus'*

2. In the tenth century a pagan Slavic people known as the Kievan Rus' lived in present-day Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. In c 988 St Vladimir, the ruler of the Rus', converted to Christianity, was baptised and brought the rest of the people to baptism also. This event is known as the 'Baptism of Rus' and occurred in or near Kyiv. This is seen to the present day as a watershed moment in Russian history and one which, in the minds of some, unites the people of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine as the successors of the Kievan Rus' and as a single, Orthodox Christian, Russian people. Such is the importance of Vladimir that he is given the epithet 'Equal to the Apostles'. Also, as Kyiv was the centre of the lands of the Rus', it has a special status in Russian self-identity (not wholly dissimilar to the importance of Kosovo in Serbian self-identity).
3. Over the next few hundred years empires came and went, peoples moved around and borders changed. In the sixteenth century a part of the church in modern-day western Ukraine came into communion with Rome. Nowadays the Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of the fourteen Eastern Catholic Churches sui juris in communion with the Catholic Church and easily the largest of these, with a membership of around 5 million. The seat of this church has moved from Lviv in the west to Kyiv.

### *The Rise of Moscow and of the Ottomans*

4. The next important date is 1686. Disputes over what happened at this time formed the basis of the arguments in 2018 about the independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. One side of the story is that, with the expansion of the Ottoman Empire the Ecumenical Patriarch was not able to get to Kyiv for the consecration of a new Metropolitan and so asked the Patriarch of Moscow (the Moscow Patriarchate had been granted autocephaly – that is self-government - in 1589) to do so, but without the assumption that the church in Ukraine would become dependent on Moscow. The other side of the story is that, for whatever reason, the Ecumenical Patriarch in 1689 transferred authority over the Ukrainian Church to Moscow. Practically speaking, Kyiv did begin to look ecclesiastically to Russia and the difficulty of communication with Constantinople in Ottoman times to some extent forced this.

### *Modern day Ukraine and the Tomos of Autocephaly*

5. In more recent history the territory currently covered by Ukraine has, like much of central and eastern Europe, been controlled by different powers, not least the Soviet Union: under which the church was oppressed. There were moves in the early 1990s to set up an independent Orthodox Church in Ukraine (the Kyiv Patriarchate), which led to one split with Moscow. In 2019 the Kyiv Patriarchate and the existing Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine merged to form the new

Orthodox Church of Ukraine. This is separate from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), known as the 'Moscow Church'.

6. We remember, as well that in the West of Ukraine, from the Polish border through Lviv and beyond, the Catholic Church (mainly Eastern Catholic Church) is stronger and as one moves East the Orthodox becomes stronger.
7. After the annexation of Crimea in 2014 President Poroshenko of Ukraine was instrumental in pushing for a decisive break with Moscow and the establishment of a self-governing (autocephalous) Orthodox Church of Ukraine. This happened in 2018 when the Holy Synod of Constantinople decided that the Ecumenical Patriarch should grant a 'tomos' (decree) of autocephaly and erect the new church under the leadership of Metropolitan Epiphany of Kyiv. This move caused a new schism between Moscow and Constantinople.

### *Conclusion*

8. We see in Ukraine and Russia a clash of two world views in which statehood, nation and church are united. In the Russian view as expressed (pretty much directly) by President Putin and Patriarch Kirill, these are one people in one church and, as essentially one nation, the descendants of Rus' naturally look to Moscow for civil and religious leadership. In the alternative view Ukraine is a sovereign state with territory, borders and a distinct national identity and view of history. For example, Moscow was not even founded until nearly two centuries after the Baptism of Rus'. The independence of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine from Moscow is part of the evidence for this wider independence and natural, given that most (if not all) sovereign nations in the traditional orthodox territories have their autocephalous churches.

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## Appendix 2 Christian Aid and the DEC Ukraine Appeal

1. Over five million people have fled their homes so far to escape conflict in Ukraine. Leaving behind jobs, belongings and loved ones, they are in urgent need of shelter, food and water.
2. Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country, causing hundreds of thousands to flee. Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes have destroyed homes. Families have been separated. People have been injured. Lives have been lost. Critical infrastructure such as health facilities, water supplies and schools have also been damaged or destroyed.
3. At Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova, huge numbers of people are arriving with only what they can carry. In many places there are long waits to cross and scant facilities waiting for them on the other side, with temperatures dropping below freezing overnight.
4. There have been increasing media reports of racism against black people and people of colour who are being refused access to relief, aid and the right to cross the border to safety.
5. Patrick Watt, Christian Aid's new CEO, has stated: "Ukraine is witnessing a terrible humanitarian tragedy. After an eight-year war, thousands of lives have been lost and hundreds of thousands have been displaced. All-out war is putting many more at risk. Our message is simple: immediately agree a ceasefire and unequivocally commit to protect civilians and key services. All parties must abide by international humanitarian law."

### How is Christian Aid Responding

6. A humanitarian appeal has been launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and has raised over £300 million to date. As a member, Christian Aid is working together with other DEC charities and their local partners in Ukraine and across the border in neighbouring countries, like Hungary and Romania, to meet the immediate needs of over 100,000 people fleeing the conflict. This includes food, water, medical assistance, protection, trauma care and essential household items including warm clothes and blankets.
7. Christian Aid is working primarily through two ACT Alliance partners: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary, and Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, to offer assistance to IDPs and to refugees, as well as Crown Agents, a UK-based organisation providing immediate health supplies in Ukraine. The programme plans to target women, children, older people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups such as Roma people and members of the LGBTQI communities.
8. Christian Aid's key priorities over the coming days and weeks include:
  - *Medical support* – life saving medical equipment will be delivered to Ukrainian hospitals including 4,500 first aid kits, 4,500 trauma kits, 100 oxygen machines, 34 infant incubators, 125 patient monitors, 9,100 thermal blankets, and 1,500 doses of neonatal medicines. Additional medicines and medical supplies will be provided to local health care centres including over the counter medicines, vitamins, bandages and disinfectants.

- *Distributing food* – Food is being distributed in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania for families forced to flee their homes. This includes canned food, flour, sugar, oil, rice, pasta, biscuits, long-life milk, tea and oatmeal. The food packages will be distributed to over 3,300 refugee families in Hungary and Romania. In Ukraine, 4,000 families will be provided food packages supplemented with fresh fruits from local farmers. In addition, community kitchens and food stands will provide hot meals and groceries for 5,000 people.
- *Refugee help points* – Christian Aid is supporting help points, transit centres and short term community centres that provide vital support to tens of thousands of refugees. It will provide shelter and hygiene kits to 800 refugee families via these centres. The kits contain vital items such as towels, clothes, blankets, sanitary towels, washing powder and soap. In Romania, it will provide temporary accommodation to 3,600 refugees. In addition, we will restore shower blocks, provide additional toilets, improve water supplies and adapt the centres for older people and people with disabilities.
- *Cash assistance* – Christian Aid is empowering people to address any remaining urgent needs by providing cash grants. In Ukraine, cash grants totalling £100,000 will be provided to pay for items such as blankets and clothes. It will also provide grants to community groups of up to £6,000 to fund community led responses. These grants will be available in Ukraine and Hungary to 236 groups reaching over 22,300 people.
- *Supporting vulnerable groups* – In order to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, we are setting-up safe spaces in communal shelters and transit centres in Northwest Ukraine and Hungary. These are spaces where children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities can access services where they can play, learn, or express their worries and fears in a safe environment with trained professionals. We are also providing over 200 cash grants in Ukraine and 50 in Hungary for vulnerable people to address their needs - for example, families who need to buy their child a wheelchair or supporting referrals to those requiring mental health support.
- *Refugee integration* – support will be provided to refugees in order to integrate in their new community. A total of 10,600 people will be provided with support including; cultural orientation, information on their rights, translation services, legal counselling and job searches and 5,000 refugees will receive SIM cards.

### **Case Study: Christian Aid's work with Crown Agents**

9. Through the DEC appeal, Christian Aid has donated £2m for life-saving medical equipment to be delivered into Ukraine. £1m provided up to 10,000 emergency first aid trauma kits for civilian casualties. The other £1m was spent on baby incubators, oxygen concentrators and more than 3,000 thermal blankets together with emergency life-saving medicines for premature babies.
10. Fergus Drake, Crown Agents' CEO, said: "As the conflict exacerbates the humanitarian crisis by the day, a continuous supply of vital medical items going to those still in Ukraine is essential. Doctors have begun to see a steep rise in premature babies since the beginning of the conflict. Those babies need special medical attention, and so do the countless adult patients suffering from injuries and trauma because of the atrocities."
11. Crown Agents has been working with Ukraine's Ministry of Health for more than five years and in the country for 25 years. This means it's well positioned to offer

support inside the country. The Ministry has kept in constant touch with them, sharing details of the medical equipment they require.

12. With the extra funding from Christian Aid, Crown Agents can now add more urgent items to its critical response. This will reach beneficiaries as soon as possible due to its established network already set up to pass on the lifesaving supplies.

## Ukraine Appeal – an Update from USPG and the Diocese in Europe

1. USPG and the Diocese in Europe have committed to responding to the conflict in Ukraine, both to the immediate humanitarian need within Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries, and the medium and long-term response and activities of Anglican Chaplaincies across the Diocese in Europe.

### Donations received

2. To date (27th May) donations to the Diocese in Europe's Ukraine Appeal currently total £348,993 and have come through two main channels:
  - The Bishop's Lent Appeal in the Diocese in Europe. This has raised £112,993. This is around 5 times more than such appeals normally raise.
  - USPG/Diocese in Europe Appeal. This has raised £236,000 (inclusive of gift aid). Most of this money has come as the result of individual donations, primarily from the UK, including generous personal donations from a number of bishops within the Church of England. However, we have also received £67,670 from churches, including donations of £3,479 from the NSKK (with a significant donation from the Diocese of Osaka), a donation of £1,000 from the Church of Bangladesh and a significant number of donations from congregations in the Episcopal Church in Florida.

### Grants

3. Funds from the Appeal are going to support:
  - Ecumenical partners of the Diocese in Europe, who are well positioned to provide humanitarian relief to those within Ukraine and to Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries.
  - Activities closely linked to chaplaincies and churches within the Diocese in Europe. In some cases, that is to support work being undertaken by churches and members of their congregations directly, in other cases, local charities with which the chaplaincies have existing and close working relationships.
4. As of 27 May 2022, the following monies have been committed through ecumenical partners particularly with the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches:
  - *Caritas Spes Ukraine (£75,000)*  
 Roman Catholic NGO Caritas-Spes are a long standing and well-established humanitarian actor in Ukraine, and therefore were able to respond immediately to the conflict. Funding has contributed to a larger emergency response (with a budget of 3 Million euros between April and September 2022) which seeks to support 55,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected Ukrainians to meet their essential needs. Their work is focused on those in the most affected areas within Ukraine and seeks to provide: access to short- and long-term shelter; basic needs (food, water, hygiene, medicine); light psychosocial support activities, and information about evacuation and shelter options as well as available humanitarian aid. Caritas-Spes Ukraine provides services to those in need without regard to ethnicity, language, or

religion, on a first come, first-serve basis, and with prioritization of separated families, women, and children. At this stage, £25,000 has been sent to Caritas-Spes, a further £50,000 has been authorised by the Diocese in Europe/USPG.

- *Lutheran World Federation (LWF) (£50,000)*

The Appeal is contributing £50,000 towards the response of the Lutheran World Federation divided between its direct humanitarian activities (through the LWF World Service) and through the activities of its member churches in Eastern Europe. This response supports Lutheran churches to respond effectively to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. This includes: improving access to services including shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), education as well as psychological wellbeing and protection services.

5. Monies have been committed Chaplaincies across the Diocese in Europe. We are working with a number of Chaplaincies across Europe as they respond to immediate needs and discern and design responses into the medium term

- *Kosciol Anglikanski w Polsce, (Church of England in Poland), Warsaw (£10,000)*

Accommodation and food for refugees in Warsaw awaiting visas to enter the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. These activities are being undertaken in partnership with Warsaw Rotary Club and Love Bristol. It is strongly anticipated that more funds will be necessary, especially for families with small children who have to physically come to Warsaw to visit the UK visa processing centre. Some of these funds may be spent on flights to the UK.

- *St Margaret's Church, Budapest, Hungary (£5,000)*

St Margaret's has established partnerships with a number of organisations in Budapest. We have already supported a partner Next-Step Hungary who are providing food and domestic needs of refugees from Ukraine. Next-Step has a particular focus on supporting third country nationals who are not granted the rights to benefits from the state and whose already precarious pre-war financial resources have been exhausted and stretched to the very limits. This programme supports between 50 to 200 new arrivals from Ukraine on a weekly basis. Conversations are ongoing regarding financial support to two other projects: the provision of accommodation with the Menedékház Foundation and an emerging 'The Next Generation' Day Care programme. It is expected that more funds will be distributed here.

- *Other Chaplaincies in Eastern Europe*

Conversations and plans are developing with St Saviour's Church in Riga, Latvia, St Nicholas Anglican Church Helsinki, Finland and the Anglican Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest, Romania. We anticipate sending funds in the coming months.

## Summary

6. The Ukraine response has generated £348,993. Whilst donations will continue to come in, it is anticipated that the total sum of further contributions will be modest and not more than 20% of the current total. Currently £140,000 of the £348,993,

that is just over 40% of the money raised, has been allocated, the majority to immediate humanitarian response. That is in line with what might be expected at this stage for an emergency of this scale. It is important to bear in mind that significant need will continue long after the immediate humanitarian response has subsided and Anglican churches within the Diocese in Europe will continue in their ministries of supporting refugees and migrants for years to come. It is important that their capacity to do so increases in the coming years and medium-term funding from this Appeal will seek to do that.

7. Finally, USPG and the Diocese in Europe are working together to support the work of refugee support across the diocese through the appointment of a Refugee Response Coordinator – this will be funded separately, but will enhance the effectiveness of the Diocese in its response to the Ukraine crisis and the wider challenges posed by caring for migrants within the diocese. The Diocese in Europe is also in actively co-operating with The Episcopal Church as work develops in this area.

**The Revd Duncan Dormor  
General Secretary, USPG**

**The Rt Revd Robert Innes  
The Bishop in Europe**

**27.05.2022**