

## THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE (SHORT COMMUNICATION)

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**Abstract****Background:** Since March 2022, a special survey is conducted with refugees from Ukraine as a result of the war. The survey is being conducted in Slovakia, Italy and Poland in various Crisis Centers and Centers, which focus on helping families and children. It focuses on examining the needs of refugees from Ukraine and what kind of support they would need from helpers and clergy.**Conclusion:** Given the dynamically evolving situation, researchers are constantly monitoring the current needs of refugees and their prioritization.**Keywords:** Ukraine – Crisis – The needs of the Refugees – Care – Support.**Introduction**

In the period from March 2022, a special survey is conducted with refugees from Ukraine as a result of the war. The survey is being conducted in Slovakia, Italy and Poland in various Crisis Centers and Centers, which focus on helping families and children. It is implemented on the basis of qualitative and quantitative strategies. Potential participants are contacted through the contact staff of the mentioned centers. The participation of respondents in the survey is exclusively voluntary and their anonymity is ensured, as well as the protection of their provided information and data. To date 20 April 2022, 150 refugees aged 25-55 have

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participated in the survey. The purpose of the special survey is to examine what the needs of refugees from Ukraine are and what kind of support they would need.<sup>2</sup>

So far, the survey has revealed following needs of refugees from Ukraine.

After fleeing Ukraine, waiting for asylum in another country, in addition to what they have experienced, is often a source of serious suffering for refugees. This immigration status and waiting for asylum or resettlement is exacerbated by the symptoms of traumatic stress. During this waiting period, refugees say they are often located somewhere and become dependent on the help of others or are in informal working and living conditions in large cities.

According to them, it is the work license and health care that enable the integration into their new society, meaningful integration, and integration into everyday life.

Another problem is that some of them enter our countries less healthy compared to our domestic population and will eventually develop various diseases.

Another serious problem may be the fact that their daily stressors can be as worrying as their trauma associated with the war which they fled from.

These daily stressors may include acclimatizing to a new culture, language, and socio-economic status, as well as orientation in new social systems to gain access to public benefits and health care. The dynamics of their families may also change, for example by the fact that for men in the family may be difficult to find a job that suits their skills and profession and, consequently, it may be challenging to secure their families economically, which can also have a negative effect on their behavior in the family. Some men are already showing more arduous behavior towards wives and children.

Refugees would need that the assisting workers from different backgrounds, who receive them and who come into contact with them, will be able to advocate and provide support, to be accessible in different contexts and have a deep understanding of cultural factors.

Refugees would need to experience a sense of acceptance, deep empathic understanding, consolation, hope, personal strength and a sense of self-worth, a sense that they can count on someone in case they need some help or some kind of support; the feeling that they can share their experiences and needs within the framework of religious beliefs.

**Conclusion**

Due to the dynamically evolving situation, the researchers continuously monitor the current needs of refugees and their prioritization through a short quantitative questionnaire. The questionnaire also maps the types of services and support they received during the integration process, in the countries where the special survey is being conducted, with an assessment of their degree of usefulness in adaptation/acclimatization.

2 In this context, see for example: Murphy, A., Fuhr, D., Roberts, B., Jarvis, C. I., Tarasenko, A., and McKee, M. (2022). The health needs of refugees from Ukraine. *bmj*, (2022): 377; Kaufman, K., Bhui, K., and Katona, C. (2022). Mental health responses in countries hosting refugees from Ukraine. *BJPsych Open*, 8(3), E87. doi:10.1192/bjo.2022.55

### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All the mentioned authors significantly, directly, and intellectually contributed to the work and approved its publication.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All the authors declare that the research involved in the article and the publication of the article were carried out without having any business, financial or other relations and/or circumstances that could be considered as a potential conflict of interest. At the same time, all the authors declare that there is no conflict of interest related to this article or its review.

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### THE FIRST WEEK ON THE UKRAINIAN BORDER IN THE ARMED CONFLICT-SPECTRUM OF MISSION, AND ASSISTANCE (LETTER TO THE EDITOR - NOTE)



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### Abstract

The first week of the Christian Values humanitarian mission undertaken by the Order of the Knights of Malta and Maltese Help, a joint project with the Equity Humanitarian Organisation at the Ukrainian border just 12h from the beginning of the armed conflict is here described and discussed. The spectrum of the type of missionary intervention, and humanitarian and healthcare aid, is compared in the first 4 days to a subsequent period of one to three weeks later.

**Keywords:** Christian values – Mission in an armed conflict area.

### Introduction

Armed conflicts are not exceptional even in Europe, which is considered by migrants and refugees as a “safe continent” (1-4).

However, experience from the last 30-35 years contradicts this viewpoint and several armed conflicts including civil and aggressive wars have been recorded in Central (Southern) Europe despite little attention having been given to the suffering of civilians and the need of mission for migrant refugees of wars, those internally displaced, both homeless and shelter seekers. We must remember the suffering caused by the bombing of Temesvar on 25-28 Dec 1989 during the battles between the Securitate and Army during the final days of Ceaușescu’s power, followed by the terrible civil war between parts of former Yugoslavia, followed by the Kosovo crisis in 2000, where up to 160,000 people were found in mass graves, and another million escaped to neighbouring countries.

Other conflicts near Southern Europe - in Syria, Turkey and Iraq - were followed by 1.1 million refugees fleeing to Western Europe via the Balkans, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary to Austria and Germany, and the civil war in Karabach which led to an official war conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 2020-21. Finally, it should come as no surprise that military aggression

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