



THE ROMANIAN BRETHREN CHURCH **UNION OF ROMANIAN BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES**

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Beloved faithful,

“I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.”

John 13:34

We would like to send you some information about the situation of refugees from Ukraine. The National Council decided to involve the Christian Brethren Churches in helping refugees from Ukraine. Thus, it was agreed to make fundraising at the level of all churches.

In order to use the resources in the wisest way possible, the Union of Christian Brethren Churches will try to coordinate as much as possible with the help of the working points at the border, where the refugees enter the country. For start, it's a good idea to focus on raising financial resources. With their help we can intervene promptly. Over time we will see if we act on other levels (clothes, goods, etc.). Regarding to the goods, we will collect, purchase and send them at the time the working points will ask for them.

With the help of the Zonal Communities and the churches situated in the border area we are working in the following working points :

- Siret - Suceava county.
- Sighetul Marmăției - Maramureș county.
- Isaccea - Tulcea county.
- Sculeni - Iași county.
- Albita - Vaslui county.
- Rădăuți Prut - Botoșani county.

With the help of the brothers that are involved in these areas we pay attention to their needs and support them with the collected resources.

BCER (Christian Brethren Churches from Romania) has direct contacts in Ukraine and in the Republic of Moldova through missionary brothers that we support there.

The refugees that are arriving in Romania are in the following situations:

- refugees who have someone in Romania
- refugees transiting through the country
- refugees seeking political asylum in Romania or in another country
- refugees who want to stay here during the war and then return in their country

Those who want to return to Ukraine want to stay as close to the border as possible because they believe that they will be able to return home soon. We also accommodate refugees with the help of the churches situated in the counties bordering those near the border.

As days go by, the pressure to take in refugees is growing. That is why we ask all the churches in the country to identify the accommodations available, both in families and in other spaces (camps, social centers, etc.). The locations identified through the churches must reach the Zonal Communities in order to be centralized in a database and accessed when needed.

Some of the refugees are taken to Bucharest to resolve the situation with their identity documents or their children's identity documents. As you know, most of them are mothers with children, because the men between the ages of 18 and 60 cannot leave the country. The law stipulates that the family can leave together only if they have at least three children or if the father suffers from an autoimmune disease. After the documents problem is solved, most of them leave the country, going to one of the parents who works in the west, to relatives, to persons that they know, or they apply for political asylum.

There also have begun to appear refugees that want to remain in our country for a longer period of time. By God's goodwill, our brothers have been able to set up humanitarian aid convoys and reach the areas of need directly in Ukraine. We mainly focus on food and essential products. It is very important that these aids are taken directly and distributed exactly where needed.

We believe that financial assistance may be needed in Ukraine at some point. As far as we are informed by the brothers we are in contact with, many refugees are moving from conflict zones to areas considered to be at lower risk.

We are also informed by brothers that refugees reach The Republic of Moldova as well. Because in Moldova the standard of living is low we are more than certain that we will need to help there too.

We are happy to see an exemplary mobilization of churches, families, young people (etc.). We just have the request that this mobilization continues in the long term, because the situation will get worse in our opinion. In addition, long-term aid will be needed after the end of hostilities in order to restore war damage.

We want to have moments of prayer for the situation in the conflict zone, Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries, in all church fellowship meetings. Thursday is a day of fasting and prayer, so anyone who wishes can join in this time of sacrifice. We pray that God will hold in His hand and strengthen the brothers on the front lines in Ukraine, those from Romania who are passing in the neighboring country with aids, those who take refugees directly from customs points, as well as all who are involved in some way.

We thank everyone and we know that God who sees in secret will reward you for every help you give.

May God bless you!

"Do to others what you would want them to do to you" (Luke 6:31).

On behalf of the National Council of the BCER-UBCE.

Executive Committee,

Achihai Virgil

Haureş Cornel

Mitrea Dan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, stylized cursive letters and flourishes, positioned to the right of the printed names.