

## **Club of Catholic Intelligentsia**

### **Engagement in helping Ukraine - update**

**21.03.2022**

#### **Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine:**

We have carried out or supported the evacuation of over 600 people from Ukraine, including 240 children and their caregivers from the Ukrainian orphanage for children with disabilities (transport, finding destination, helping with maintenance); 191 mothers and children from several Ukrainian centers. We have supported the Polish government team for the evacuation of people with disabilities in evacuating another 176 children with disabilities and their caregivers from Eastern Ukraine (the action involved contact coordination with the government team, help in maintaining formalities, finding target destination both in Poland and abroad, transport coordination and assistance).

We sent over 9 tons of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including: 4 tons of medical equipment for the First Volunteer Mobile Hospital and over 4,5 tons of food and hygiene products. We run 4 collection points for humanitarian aid products in Warsaw.

We have created a hostel for non-Ukrainian refugees from Ukraine. Within 2 weeks we have already hosted 367 people of 26 nationalities. All the hostel's guests have food, bed sheets, clothes and legal assistance provided.

We have created a database of around 140 accommodations that KIK's members share with refugees who are coming to Warsaw. The guide for guest was created, brochure of good practices for hosts is currently being prepared. We have also created an intervention group dedicated to solving conflicts between the hosts and the guests.

We have initialized daily afternoon care for Ukrainian children in 4 schools in Warsaw where volunteers and psychologists are involved. We are developing the support solutions for mothers of children who are beneficiaries of the daily care.

We organize ecumenical church services and produce fliers and posters informing the Greek Catholics and the Orthodox about the places of prayer. We support the clergy in organizing holy masses for constantly growing community of the faithful.

**Our activities are supported by over 400 volunteers.**

#### **Currently we are working on:**

Creating the Ukrainian school in Warsaw for over 300 pupils, in which the children and teenagers – especially those without access to online lessons – could finish the school year and receive the Ukrainian diplomas. We cooperate with the city government of Warsaw, Ukrainian Ministry of Education and the team of Polish and Ukrainian educators.

Organizing holiday camps for children from refugee families. We intend to implement our several years of experience in organizing such initiatives. We will use the support of Ukrainian educators and supervisors.

Together with a few expert organizations and scientists specializing in migration, we are working on forming a long-term model for supporting the refugees in Warsaw and its surroundings. We intend to test and implement this model in partnership with the city authorities.

Pursuing our actions, we cooperate with the authorities, institutions, representatives of Polish and Ukrainian governments and also with local governments. The evacuation was supported by the first lady of Poland. We also cooperate with non-governmental organizations, which include among others: Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Caritas, Ukrainian House, Stocznia Foundation, Grupa Granica, PAH, Polish Migration Forum and Catholic Church institutions.

Our actions are regularly commented and described by the Polish and foreign press, among others RDC, Rzeczpospolita, OKO.press, SWISSinfo, The Guardian.

### **What kind of help do we need?**

Our organization needs funds for developing our infrastructure. Currently on the territory of Poland there are 2 millions of Ukrainians, many of which will stay in Poland. Thinking about effective help we need to take the perspective of a few years. It requires a gradual replacement of voluntary actions with the work of hired staff as well as coordinators and experts. The means given to KIK will be used on developing our ability to help effectively in a broad long-term perspective (salary of coordinators is crucial) and on specific aid activities (transport of goods, medical supplies etc.).

#### **Each of our initiatives needs funding.**

**Hostel for non-Ukrainian refugees from Ukraine:** for covering costs of accommodation, food, laundry etc.

**Evacuation of children with disabilities:** for transport, costs of administrative support of evacuated groups.

**Afternoon care for children:** for materials, psychologists' salaries.

**Humanitarian aid:** for transport of aid measures and the purchase of specialist equipment (i.e. Ultrasound Machines for field hospitals).

**Ukrainian school:** for hiring teachers, the purchase of teaching aids, printing/purchasing the handbooks, maintenance of the building.

**Long-term model for the support of refugees:** for hiring experts who would pilot the model solutions.

[www.kik.waw.pl](http://www.kik.waw.pl)

Club of Catholic Intelligentsia in Warsaw, founded in 1956, is one of the oldest organizations in Poland. It gathers people who are involved in serving the common good.

KIK's initiatives are pursued in 4 main areas:

1. Humanitarian and development aid and other aid activities (projects funded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by American USAID carried out in Syria, Iraq and Ukraine; humanitarian aid at the Polish-Belarusian border);
2. Education and upbringing (leading peer groups based on scouting-like rules for over 700 children and teenagers);
3. Social initiatives in Poland (cooperation with minorities in Poland, creation of the first in Poland support helpline for people abused in Church);
4. Development of the civil society in Eastern Europe (support for independent school system in Belarus, care for children affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine).

Since 2014 KIK has been especially involved in helping the Ukrainian society. During the so-called Revolution of Dignity (2014) KIK delivered specialist equipment for field hospital, Personal Protective Equipment and financial support, as well as the support for the injured who were transported to Polish hospitals. For 8 years KIK had been regularly organizing therapeutic and recreation camps for children from the families who had suffered from the war in the Eastern Ukraine. Several hundred children and teenagers benefited from those. KIK was also leading the projects supporting young Ukrainian artists, organized specialist workshops for educators working with refugee families in Ukraine. Ukrainian hospitals were equipped and the doctors were trained also on the KIK's initiative.

Thanks to all those activities KIK has a broad base of verified partners in the territory of Ukraine in the fields of education, culture and empowering the civil society. We have been cooperating with Ukrainian Ministry of National Defense, local governments and hospitals' management representatives. The members of KIK were frequently rewarded for their involvement by the representatives of Ukraine's and Poland's authorities.

Thanks to the long-term experience in managing aid activities that are based on verified needs and having at our disposal all the contacts, motivated volunteers and partners with broad experience in multiple fields, we were able to bring help from the very beginning of Russian aggression in Ukraine. We focus on the particular fields that are in our opinion not comprehensively cared for. The three of them are: **humanitarian and medical care in the territory of Ukraine; providing the basic needs for the refugees in the territory of Poland; organizing long-term help structures.**