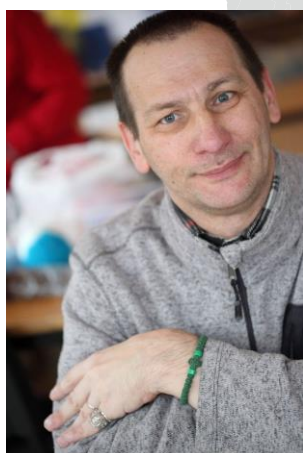


11 March 2022

Dear friends,

The unprecedented scale of the war unleashed against Ukraine is something Europe has not witnessed for many decades. In this conflict the life of the country is at stake, leading the rest of Europe into uncertain times and threatening important equilibriums around the globe.

We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and, in the midst of this ordeal and suffering, the members of our two communities there are particularly in our thoughts.



Volodymyr from L'Arche Ternopil:  
"We are going to win because I am a patriot and I support our Ukraine. And everything will be restored."

Here is some news shared on our Facebook account [L'Arche Members](#) by Basia Wójcik and Manca Kastelic, our two Federation envoys for these communities:

*"The two cities where our communities are located, Lviv and Ternopil, are relatively far away from the fighting for the moment. Since the outbreak of the war, all workshop activities have been cancelled. The main members of the two communities are staying at home with their families. They are all safe for the moment.*

*Currently in Ukraine, everybody's main objective is to survive and to help others to survive and that goes for the members of our communities as well. People in the two cities of Lviv and Ternopil are attempting to do all they can for the good of their country: first and foremost they are hosting refugees, some for the entire duration of the war and others on a temporary basis on their route towards the West.*

*Our community house in Lviv has hosted groups and families from eastern Ukraine, including people with a learning disability. The assistants and members of the board of directors in Ternopil are involved in various activities to support the Ukrainian army and citizens, such as baking bread, weaving camouflage nets and supporting refugees. The communities are receiving many expressions of support from communities and other members of the Federation. L'Arche in Poland and the two communities in Lithuania have offered to host refugees from L'Arche in Ukraine. Currently the communities in both countries are already hosting refugees and are very much involved.*

*In many places people are raising money. Su Wen from Taiwan called to say that lots of her friends and acquaintances there would like to make a donation. A friend of L'Arche in Austria has offered her house in Slovakia, which is not very far from the Ukrainian border, to host up to 20 refugees, including those with the most severe disabilities".*



Swietlana – is making a camouflage net for the army (the one with black hair and grey jumper)

It is estimated that more than two million refugees have already left Ukraine for European Union countries, which have unanimously agreed to grant them residence and work permits for one year, which may be renewed. This unprecedented decision (contrasting with policies that are usually very restrictive) is an expression of the severity of the situation, but also of the movement of solidarity towards the Ukrainian people.



Oksana – the Community Leader is baking bread at night (in the middle)

As Basia and Manca have reported, several of our communities have already made offers to host refugees. All those located in the European Union who are able to may also do so, in accordance with the procedures specific to their own countries. From our side, we will ensure that we relay any specific requests that reach us from members of our communities or families including people with a disability.

Since the beginning of the conflict, every day at 8pm (Ukraine time) or 6pm (UTC) the communities of Faith and Light and L'Arche in Ukraine have been coming together for a time of prayer over Zoom\* and they invite their friends and members of all communities around the world to join them. This is a time of prayer and communion amongst our friends and a simple expression of our fraternal relationships across the world. Please do not hesitate to join them, either on your own or with members of your homes or workshops. This time is precious for them and for each of us.

Finally, do contribute to and share news of the [fundraising campaign](#) which has been launched.

It is the very vocation of L'Arche to be a sign of unity and peace: we are from different countries, we share neither the same beliefs, nor the same religions, nor even the same talents or limits. However, through our experience of life together, we have learned that above all else, we are all part of one humanity. We did not learn this like a theoretical concept, but instead we experienced it in the very depths of our being.

We are praying alongside our brothers and sisters from Ukraine, for their country and their people. We pray that we may all be artisans of peace, no matter where we are in the world and which side of the border we are on.

In communion

Stephan Posner

Stacy Cates-Carney

\*The Zoom link to join the time of prayer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85425574747>  
Meeting ID: 854 2557 4747, Passcode: 797725

For news and to express your support, please see the following Facebook pages:  
[L'Arche Members](#), [L'Arche-Kovcheg](#) and [L'Arche Ternopil](#)