



ISKCON RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

WEEK 9

ISKCON RELIEF – FIGURES

Devotees from Europe, as well as other parts of the world, have tirelessly continued their sincere endeavour to help devotees from Ukraine to find shelter, care and support. The following figures are for week 9 of this devotee care / relief effort.

ISKCON Relief – Food Distribution, Week 9	Quantity (FFL plus in temples and houses)
Czech Republic	2.510
France (New Mayapur)	830
Germany	10.000
Hungary	3.050 + bread, sweets and fruits
Poland	3.090
Slovakia	390
Spain	356

Country	Refugees being Hosted
Bulgaria	42 (incl. 20 children)
Czech Republic	76 (incl. 35 children)
Denmark	31 (incl. 12 children)
France (New Mayapur)	7 (incl. 3 children)
Germany	180
Hungary	45 (incl. 16 children)
Ireland	7 (incl. 4 children)
Italy	17
Latvia	11
Poland	37 (incl. 9 children) 65 transiting
Romania	2 adults and 1 child transiting
Slovakia	18 (incl. 8 children)
Spain	62 (incl. 23 children)
Sweden	32



Important General Message:

The following centres have now reached full capacity and cannot receive any more refugee devotees until further notice:

1. ISKCON Germany
2. ISKCON Spain
3. ISKCON Hungary - (only 5 more places left)

Poland:

We had a lot of gratitude this week. Messages of various kinds from different places: locally, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland and Germany.

Last week we experienced an amazing story of a lost daughter who was thankfully found again. Her family arrived in Warsaw after a traumatic journey and few weeks of unbelievable stress. The family being; an elderly mum and dad, grandma, sister, teenage nephew and little, very energetic niece. For weeks they were convinced their devotee daughter was dead. They went to look for her at her home only to see a hole made by bombs where their house once stood. They looked for her body or some sign of her but could find nothing at all. So then they went to the local ISKCON temple but only to find no sign of her there either, so at this stage they had very little hope left. In the end they decided to use a humanitarian corridor to Russia. By Krsna's grace they managed to hide in a basement for a few days and then escaped to Estonia where they finally got their phone signal back and then, to their disbelief, they saw all the messages from their daughter whom they had given up all hope they would ever see again! The family called her right away and found that she was safe at the Copenhagen temple. She then advised them to call Rasikendra prabhu to help them with their journey.

Their daughter had also stayed with the devotees in Warsaw but then after some time relocated to Denmark. That whole time she was waiting for news from her family but they seemed to be lost, so she finally went to Copenhagen to join her devotee friends there. What a wonderful story of hope against hope! Just imagine the scenario, she thought the family was lost and the family thought she was lost (indeed worse, they thought she had died)

Germany:

The following message was sent from a refugee who received help from Rasikendra Das and the Polish team to transit into Germany:

“Once again, thank you so much for helping us and then getting us to Germany and for putting us in the presence of very wonderful devotees. They helped us with everything, both with work and with housing. So, from May 1, we are already officially going to work with a signed a contract. We were also provided with housing and a good doctor was found for our pregnant sister and the children were placed in the best school. So, I can now write to you about this because I am very grateful to you for what you have done for us. 🙏🙏🙏 The way you serve devotees who need help, Krishna and your spiritual master will never forget.”

That was the idea from the start; to help the devotees to settle and become independent. It is so rewarding to see that it's actually happening

Ireland: The devotees in Ireland have some accommodation in the temple for Ukrainian devotees. Please get in contact with them for more information. The temple is though part of the UK, even though it's located in Ireland and thus visas are unfortunately required.

UK: The following video gives important information for devotee refugees who want to come to the UK. It gives information about the government humanitarian program as well as the help offered by ISKCON in the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEdzfQji9Ck>

ISKCON RELIEF WEBSITE

Please visit our newly created website at:

<http://iskconrelief.org/>

ISKCON RELIEF TEAM



Core Committee

Praghosa dasa - Chair

Sukanti Radha devi dasi - Project Coordinator

Kamala Priya devi dasi - Secretary

Mahaprabhu dasa - Finance

Parabhakti dasa - Communications

Krishna Premarupa dāsa - EURO RGB Representative

Members of the ISKCON Relief Core Committee

From this report onwards, we would like to introduce the ISKCON Relief Team to you. Today we will start with our Project Coordinator.



Sukanti Radha devi dasi – Project Coordinator

Sukanti Radha devi dasi was appointed as the ISKCON Relief Crisis Management coordinator by the Euro RGB 9 weeks ago. She has worked hard to set up the structure to effectively manage the Ukraine Crisis for ISKCON in Europe. This includes a good communication system between the Euro RGB, the national coordinators and the ISKCON Ukraine management. Sukanti Radha devi dasi also set up the evacuation and exit strategies for the devotee refugees ensuring them a safe exit from Ukraine.

Being a nurse by profession, care for devotees is very close to her heart, and together with Rambhoru devi dasi she set up a system providing education on compassionate listening, grief support and post war traumatic care.

Sukanti Radha devi dasi is a disciple of HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja and serves with the Temple of Vedic Planetarium as head of fundraising for Europe.

By profession, Sukanti Radha devi dasi a.k.a Sonitra Sue Singh is a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, Nurse Educator and Registered Intensive Care Nurse with over 30 years of intensive care experience.

Furthermore she is the author of the book “Conscious Wellbeing” and teaches wellbeing to nurses in the UK and internationally. She also enjoys energy medicine and went on to qualify as a Reiki Master. Her interest in alternative medicine led her to travel to Kerala and study Ayurveda where she obtained a qualification as a Panchakarma Ayuvedic Practitioner.

With her wide variety of knowledge and skills Sukanti Radha devi dasi has nursed many members of Royal families from around the world including UK, Qatar, Saudi and South Africa. Her clients also include several VIP’s and celebrities.

Recently Sukanti Radha devi dasi was appointed as the Head of the Nursing division for the newly launched BMA - Bhaktivedanta Medical Association. We are so delighted to have such devotee nurses with such qualifications offering such amazing devotee care services voluntarily. FYI the 12th May is International Nurses day!

ISKCON RELIEF – PHOTOS

The following photos show how the Polish Team has helped many devotees and families to find shelter in different countries.



The family arriving in Germany (Neuruppin). See their message of gratitude above.



A mother with her three children arriving in Amsterdam



Mother and daughter in California on their way to Mexico



Shyamesvari dd with her daughter Tulasi in Switzerland



A family from Mariupol on their way to Copenhagen

ISKCON RELIEF – RESOURCES

The Four Stages of Relationships

Dealing with emotional issues while caring for refugees.

A very helpful analyses given by Rambhoru devi dasi at one of her weekly meetings.

Stage 1: “The Honeymoon”

We can do this; we can help them all; welcome everyone; we are here to serve you; all wonderful devotees coming from a country of family values but where all men have to fight for their country, sending their women and children away to be safe; and such an amazing yatra; 20,000 devotees wow!

Stage 2: “The disillusionment”

We start to see some cracks! They are just people! They have been through major trauma, but also they have their baggage, their way of doing things we don’t always like; they certainly can’t stay in my house for too long... I mean they are nice, but I just can’t do it... Because it’s so different to what I like and know

Stage 3: “Tolerance”

We learn skills to communicate; we understand we are not as emphatic as we thought we were, but we committed to this, so how do we coexist in this situation?

Stage 4: “Appreciation”

We start to appreciate strengths and weaknesses, learn how to be, see the good in the people and also the reality of the people. We make it work!

Please join the weekly sessions by Rambhoru dd:

Crisis Management Support

Compassionate Listening Circles with Rambhoru Devi Dasi.

Every Sunday 8:00 – 9:30 pm CET on Zoom.

Contact and registration: Rambhoru@gmail.com

Relocation Services

The ISKCON Relocation Services is run by Loka Pavani Devi Dasi and three of her Vaishnavi colleagues. They work tirelessly to put together useful and updated information about available help which can be accessed in different European countries. Such information includes government benefits, government accommodations, relocation in temples and devotee’s homes, or a list of ISKCON centres especially equipped in helping women and children to get safe facilities. Refugees can find different options, and make informed decisions on where to go. You can find all this information at the ‘Country Specific Fact Sheets for Ukrainian Devotees’ at

<http://eurorgb.org/ukraine-crisis-resources/>.

Crisis Management Team

The Crisis Management Team has appointed local coordinators for several countries. These local coordinators offer help to refugees and the assisting devotees. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

A list of the national coordinators for several countries can be found at:

<http://eurorgb.org/ukraine-crisis-structure/>



Want to help?
iskconeucrisis@gmail.com
Taking care of Srila Prabhupada’s devotees

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada