



# ISKCON RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

## WEEK 11

### 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 11 of this devotee care / relief effort.

| <b>ISKCON Relief –<br/>Food Distribution, Week 11</b> | <b>Quantity (FFL and/or in temples<br/>and houses)</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Czech Republic                                        | 2.550                                                  |
| Hungary                                               | 975                                                    |
| Poland                                                | 5.400                                                  |
| Slovakia                                              | 378                                                    |

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Refugees being Hosted</b> |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Bulgaria       | 42 (incl. 20 children)       |

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Czech Republic                       | 74 (incl. 34 children)            |
| Denmark                              | 31 (incl. 12 children)            |
| France (New Mayapur)                 | 3                                 |
| Germany                              | 180                               |
| Hungary                              | 50 (incl. 14 children)            |
| Ireland                              | 15 (incl. 4 children)             |
| Poland                               | 121<br>27 new arrived last week   |
| Britain (excluding Northern Ireland) | 15<br>9 arrived, incl. 3 children |
| Slovakia                             | 18 (incl. 8 children)             |
| Slovenia                             | 5 (incl. 2 children)              |
| Sweden                               | 31                                |



## **ISKCON RELIEF – REPORTS**

### **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

**Prayers and Yajna:**

On the most auspicious appearance day of Lord Narasimhadeva last Sunday May 15th, devotees all over the world got together to pray and hold kirtans for the safety and protection of the devotees and people in Ukraine. Praying also that this terrible war will soon come to an end. A special and protective Narasimha Yajna was conducted on the morning of His appearance in Mayapur for the peace and well being of all those affected

**Donations:**

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaj and His disciples for donating \$11,000 towards the Ukraine Crisis in Europe. The donation will be used for basic necessities.

**Poland:**

This week, 95% of all Ukrainian devotees arriving in Poland, came from Mariupol, and there are still quite a few on the way. Thanks to the protection of the Supreme Lord, we did not have any tragic stories so far, except of one:

At the start of the crisis the team was contacted by a devotee that was visiting the Holy Dham in India with his daughter. He was very worried about the rest of his family, his wife, two children and his elderly mother who were living in Mariupol. Our rescue team tried many times to contact them and get them out but they were unable to reach them. Thereafter, the father left his dear teenage daughter with a good friend in India and went back to Ukraine to help his family. That was 6 weeks ago! What we know to date is that he got stuck with his family in a Russian relocation camp but we have now lost contact. We pray to Lord Narasimhadeva for the safety of the whole family and that they can soon re-join with their daughter.

### **UK:**

Last week the UK Team welcomed nine new Ukrainian devotees, three of them were children. One of them was Alexandra, who was offered a place at the Radha Krishna temple's ladies ashram in central London. She commented that her dream has come true and she is most happy to be there. Unfortunately the ashram is very small and does not have any more facility for now.

The UK also welcomed a family from Mariupol, Julia and her daughter who shared with us their horrific experience of exploding rockets and landmines. Julia arrived directly from Ukraine together with her sister and her children who also were very happy to start a new life in the UK. Unfortunately her husband is still in Ukraine but hopefully he will be able to join them soon.

Organisers of the Russian speaking Sunday programs are also looking after individuals and families who have arrived in the UK. They have created a special WhatsApp group as well as holding zoom and live meetings to keep on top of the refugees needs so that the local devotees can help them to adjust to their new way of life in the UK.

On Narasimha Caturdasi, many of the Ukrainian devotees joined the Maha Harinama with Kadamba Kanana Swami in central London. They also celebrated the Narasimha Caturdasi festival at the Radha Krishna Temple in Soho Street.

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 help being offered by ISKCON in the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEdzfQji9Ck>  
ukrainecrisis@iskcon.london

### **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, thus visas are unfortunately required.

## **ISKCON RELIEF WEBSITE**

Please visit our newly created website at:

<http://iskconrelief.org/>

**New, New, New**

## **ISKCON RELIEF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please follow us on our newly established Facebook and Instagram:

Facebook @iskconrelief

Instagram @iskconrelief

## **ISKCON RELIEF TEAM**



### ***MEET THE TEAM - Members of the ISKCON Relief Team***

With the third part of our 'Meet The Team' series we would like to introduce you to the Chairperson of the ISKCON Relief Team – Praghosa das

### **Praghosa das – Chairperson ISKCON Relief Team**

Praghosa das, a native of Dublin, Ireland, joined the ISKCON Soho Street temple in London in 1983 and then relocated to Dublin where he took initiation from Satsvarupa Dasa Goswami. He spent the early part of his devotional life distributing Srila Prabhupada's books, raising funds and managing temples in Belfast, the island of Inis Rath, and a rural community in Wicklow, Ireland. Concurrently he and his wife, Goloka Devi Dasi, raised two sons, Sankarsana and Pancjanya and now the family has expanded with the arrival of three grand daughters!



Prior to that Praghosa das and Goloka devi dasi established some very successful Govinda's Restaurants and a preaching centre in Dublin.

Praghosa das, furthermore, is the creator, the driving force and an active contributor to ISKCON's website Dandavats.com.

Praghosa das was the first grand-disciple of Srila Prabhupada to serve as Chairman of the GBC body. He began his GBC service in 1997 as a deputy GBC member, but his ability to rise to a challenge, his quick thinking, his creativity and good sense of humor were all noted by the GBC body, and he became a full GBC member in 2001. His areas of responsibility cover some of the world's colder climates: the Channel Islands, Denmark, England, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Wales. For three consecutive years, 2002, 2003, and 2004, Praghosa das handled decision-making as an executive officer in the executive committee of the GBC body. For that entire period, he also chaired the annual GBC meetings. His solid commitment to serving ISKCON in a significant way is further highlighted by his participation in the European Regional Governing Body (RGB) from its inception in 1997.

## **ISKCON RELIEF – PHOTOS**





*Refugee Devotees in Bulgaria, Varna. The devotee giving class is Gauranga das who survived two heavy surgeries and is fighting cancer right now! He has an amazing spirit!*



*Nama Hatta Program in Slovakia at the house of Sarvasuka das, Director of Bojnice Castle, which hosts 12 refugees thanks to the arrangements made by Sarvasuka das.*

## **ISKCON RELIEF – RESOURCES**

### **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://iskconrelief.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://iskconrelief.org/ukraine-crisis-structure/>



**Want to help?**  
[iskconeucrisis@gmail.com](mailto: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