



ISKCON RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

WEEK 16

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 16 of this devotee care / relief effort.

| ISKCON Relief – Food Distribution, Week 16 | Quantity (FFL and/or in temples and houses) |
|---|--|
| Hungary | 418 |
| Slovakia | 350 |
| Spain | 390 |

| Country | Refugees being Hosted |
|---|------------------------------|
| Britain (excluding Northern Ireland) | 36 |
| Bulgaria | 37 (incl. 18 children) |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Czech Republic | 77 (incl. 36 children) |
| France (New Mayapur) | 3 |
| Hungary | 38 (incl. 10 children) |
| Ireland | 15 (incl. 4 children) |
| Poland | 125 |
| Slovakia | 18 (incl. 8 children) |
| Spain | 15 (incl. 5 children) |
| Sweden | 30 |
| Switzerland | 62 |



ISKCON RELIEF – REPORTS

Message of Acknowledgment and Gratitude:

Our ISKCON Europe Relief team would like to express deep gratitude to the devotees of **ISKCON Bahrain** for their generous donation towards the Ukraine Crisis. The devotees auctioned ‘Panihati Cida Dahi’ pots and raised US \$2.000 to support the refugees from Ukraine. These donations were, and will, be used towards providing shelter, prasadam (sanctified vegetarian food), basic necessities as well as transport from the border. We pray that Lord Krishna blesses all our donors and their families with health, peace and bhakti. (See pictures below.)

Italy:

Villa Vrindavana near Firenze and Prabhupada Dham in Genoa are full and cannot host more refugees at this point. However there are still a few places at Villaggio Hare Krishna near Milano and also at Prabhupada Dham near Venice. These temples are though requesting that expectations are made clear from both sides (the temple’s and the refugee’s) before arrival. If you are interested to go to one of these two temples then please contact Parabhakti das through the ISKCON Relief website. <http://iskconrelief.org/contact/>

Scotland:

The Vaishnava community “Karuna Bhavan” in Scotland wishes to invite two Vaishnavas who want to live at the temple in a separate apartment. A married couple, with or without children, or two prabhush/matajis.

The community provides accommodation in a 2-room apartment 5 minutes from the temple and pays utilities and food (prasadam). The temple is located in a beautiful suburb of Glasgow, surrounded by nature and the community has a vegetable and alpaca farm. If you wish to be an active part of the yatra and engage in service six days a week then please contact us. Preference is for brahmins, at least one out of the two devotees, or those who are ready to receive second initiation for Deity worship.

In addition to living in the community, you will receive an allowance from the UK government under their program for Ukrainians. Assistance in applying for a visa and processing documents upon arrival will be given by us.

For more details, please call +380635156808

Spain:

All facilities for refugee devotees coming to Spain are full and there is hardly any support from the Spanish government for Ukrainian refugees. Indeed some refugees want to leave and are looking for alternative places where they can take shelter. If your yatra has some places left, please contact Sukanti Radha devi dasi through the ISKCON Relief website.

<http://iskconrelief.org/contact/>

ISKCON RELIEF WEBSITE

Please visit our newly created website at:

<http://iskconrelief.org/>

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

In this part of our 'Meet The Team' series we would like to introduce you to one of the Core Committee members – **Parabhakti das**

Parabhakti das – ISKCON Relief Core Committee member

Parabhakti das became a devotee in 1978 at the age of just 16! He was looking for an alternative way of life and searching for God. One day a friend spoke to him about a 'blue God' and about 'Krishna'. As soon as he heard the words 'Krishna' and 'blue God' it was like a bolt from the blue for him! He seemed to know already know that name but he didn't understand how that was possible. His friend also told him about devotees of Krishna selling books in the streets, and he immediately went looking for them (for days, until he finally met one). "I was astonished - I still remember the feeling of seeing this devotee, he seemed the only real thing and all the others around him, like all things, appeared to be made of rubber." says Parabhakti. Soon after that he went to the temple in Rome and joined right away.

As a brahmachari Parabhakti distributed Srila Prabhupada's books, and was part of an innovative project distributing prasadam at large concerts and events. There he met several VIPs.

Later he met his dear wife Cinzia and together they have a beautiful daughter, Gopi Sundari devi dasi and a grand daughter Camilla Sita. Gopi Sundari devi dasi is a doctor and also run a Yoga school at Villa Vrindavana as well as online.

To find economic stability, Parabhakti worked in trading, covering representative roles in companies of various sectors.

Parabhakti has also always been very concerned about environmental issues and therefore co-founded an association for the protection of the environment in the area of the marine. He also opened a professional school for scuba divers and marine guides.

For the past 18 years Parabhakti has been serving with great dedication as the temple president of Villa Vrindavana, close to Florence. Furthermore he serves as the Director for

ISKCON Communications in Italy, the vice-president of ISKCON Communications Europe, and the vice-president for ISKCON Italy. “However the service that satisfies me most, is taking care of devotees and bringing people closer to Krishna consciousness through conferences, seminars and meetings etc” says Parabhakti.

Immediately after the terrible war in Ukraine started, the Italian yatra raised over 20.000 Euros which were directly sent to Ukraine and to the neighbouring countries that offered help to the devotee refugees.

At present Villa Vrindavana hosts 14 refugees, one of them having just been born and is less than a month old! The devotees at the temple take very nice care of the new-born in every respect. There are also a few refugees at other temples in Italy.

Parabhakti says: “ISKCON Communications Global and the ISKCON Euro RGB have promptly taken action to cope with the emergency and gradually the assistance system has improved and become more effective. There is still a lot to do but the desire is to create a structure that can offer a prompt response to emergencies that devotees are faced with, both in Europe and around the world, as well as organising large-scale distribution of prasada, especially in areas affected by war and other severe calamities.”



Parabhakti das today and when distributing prasada as a new devotee. The person next to him became a famous actor

ISKCON RELIEF – PHOTOS



These are the Panihati pots that were auctioned by ISKCON Bahrain for the ISKCON Europe Relief effort





Refugee devotees in Poland visiting the Polish farm community

ISKCON RELIEF – VIDEOS

Help for Ukraine – ISKCON Poland Yatra

<https://youtu.be/tw6ce5QJ3Lo>

A Well-being-day out in Poland – ISKCON Relief supports mental health care

<https://youtu.be/e31RERZhngA>

ISKCON Food Relief – ISKCON Czech Ukraine Crisis

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

Ukraine devotees at Villa Vrindavana – ISKCON Italy

<https://youtu.be/z8LqLmNowyo>

Refugee Devotees singing the Holy Names in a church in Barcelona where they also distributed samosas

https://youtu.be/vBEgkK9_jo

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/>

Alert

ICE (Europe) account is now discontinued for
All ISKCON Europe - Ukraine Crisis Management

**Please kindly use ONLY ISKCON UK Account
for all ISKCON Europe - Ukraine Crisis Support**

United Kingdom

Account Name: ISKCON LTD - UK FOUNDATION

Bank: LLOYDS BANK

Sort code: 30-99-21

Account number: 00767595

BIC/ SWIFT: LOYDGB21147

IBAN: GB61 LOYD 3099 2100 7675 95

Please mention what donation is for : UK for Ukraine



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