

The Westchester Jewish Council for Immigration

WJCI mobilizes the Jewish community to welcome refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants to communities in Westchester and throughout New York where they can live safely with dignity.

1. JFNA, Jewish Federations of North America, is providing updates on the Ukraine crisis every Monday and Thursday from 4:30-5 pm. Use this [link](#) to sign up for the sessions as well as volunteer opportunities for Ukrainian and Russian speakers. Anyone can attend.

2. Westchester and New York City rabbis traveled to the Ukraine-Poland border with UJA-Federation of New York. Hear their powerful reflections [here](#).

HIAS is on the ground in Ukraine and Poland. You can follow its humanitarian work [here](#). Here are additional ways that you can make a difference through HIAS.

- Learn about [Right to Protection \(R2P\)](#), a HIAS initiative helping displaced people get access to shelter and food and learn how to take action [here](#).

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE UKRAINE

Donating money continues to be the most efficient way to help those supporting Ukrainian refugees. Here is a preliminary list of the humanitarian organizations that we know to be extremely effective and helping all refugees regardless of religion:

- [The Afya Foundation](#)
- [HIAS](#)
- [IsraAID](#)
- Jewish Community of Poland Fund via [fjc.org](#). Please make sure it is designated for the "Jewish Community of Poland Fund - UKRAINIAN CRISIS" or use FJC's PayPal account [here](#).
- [*JCC Krakow, Krakow, Poland](#)
- [*JCC Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland](#)
- [JDC \(Joint Distribution Committee\)](#)
- [UJA-Federation of New York](#)

** Added 4.4.2022*

1. [The Afya Foundation](#) specializes in providing medical supplies and equipment to those in need both domestically and internationally. Currently, volunteers are packing copious amounts of much needed medical supplies as part of Operation "Ukraine Airlift" which made its first shipment of humanitarian supplies on March 2, 2022. Read more [here](#). The Foundation is a partner of UJA-Federation of New York.

2. [HIAS](#) asks that we make an emergency donation to support its Ukraine crisis response. Link to donate [here](#) and read about HIAS' Ukraine response [here](#).

3. [IsraAID](#) provides support to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world. It partners with local communities to provide urgent aid, assist in recovery, and reduce the risk of future disasters. IsraAID is on the ground in Moldova where over 200,000 Ukrainians have passed through and over 100,000 plan to remain. To donate to IsraAid visit [here](#), to view a recent briefing hosted by the American Israel Friendship League click [here](#) and to learn more about AIFL visit [here](#).

4. Jewish Community of Poland Fund accepts donations via [fjc.org](#). Please make sure it is designated for the "Jewish Community of Poland Fund - UKRAINIAN CRISIS" or use FJC's PayPal account [here](#).

5. *[JCC Krakow](#), "is a key provider of services, a strategic partner, and a convener, having already helped directly and via its partners many thousands of Ukrainians over the last four weeks. It is operating in Krakow, on the Ukrainian side of the Ukraine-Poland border and inside Ukraine."

On March 15, 2022, **Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director of the JCC of Krakow**, "spoke about the critical work the JCC is doing to respond to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and support all seeking shelter and resources, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Park Avenue Synagogue moderated this discussion bringing awareness to the most pressing issues we face collectively. You can re-watch the session with Jonathan Ornstein and Rabbi Zuckerman [here](#)." Shared by [Park Avenue Synagogue](#).

6. *[JCC Warsaw's](#) website states, "It's not a sprint, it's a marathon." – We have heard those words many times in the past weeks. Through the JCC Warsaw programs and activities we really can make a difference. The long term help we offer includes education, integration, and communal support for Ukrainian refugees who are in Warsaw.

7. [JDC \(Joint Distribution Committee\)](#) For over a century, the JDC has put Jewish values into action when the world needs it most. As the devastating conflict rages on, Ukraine's most vulnerable Jews are in distress and

humanitarian needs are continuing to spike. That is why JDC is on the ground, providing aid to those Jews remaining in Ukraine and the thousands of refugees who have fled to neighboring countries regardless of religion.

8. [UJA-Federation of New York](#) For over a century, UJA has put Jewish values into action when the world needs it most. Gifts to UJA will support the critical work of its partners on the ground who are working tirelessly to meet the urgent and mounting humanitarian needs in Ukraine – including food, shelter, transport, and emergency medical units. 100% of proceeds will go to humanitarian aid. UJA is on the ground in Eastern Europe and has already donated millions of dollars to address humanitarian aid, rescue efforts and refugee resettlement.

Policies & Advocacy

Stay informed with twice weekly updates from Jewish Federation. Learn more [here](#).

1. [FACT SHEET](#): The Biden Administration Announces New Humanitarian, Development, and Democracy Assistance to Ukraine and the Surrounding Region, March 24, 2022

ONGOING

2. Do everything in your power to see that the United States continues to invest in humanitarian and displacement assistance and to support UNHCR's emergency response efforts to ensure people have access to shelter, food, medicine, and other forms of humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighboring countries;

2. Ensure swift processing of pending refugee applications for Ukrainians, and non-Ukrainians who had been in Ukraine, at all potential processing locations and especially in Ukraine's neighboring countries;

3. Facilitate family reunification processing to reunite loved ones, such as by processing Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians who had been displaced in Ukraine with pending I-130 family petitions through the U.S. resettlement program;

4. Support non-governmental organizations in Ukraine and neighboring countries to assist internally displaced individuals or individuals seeking asylum in Ukraine and other host countries;

5. Recognize unique barriers encountered by stateless persons displaced in and fleeing Ukraine and better identify and protect such individuals; and

6. Immediately designate Special Student Relief (SSR) to protect Ukrainian students in the United States.

Topic: Ukraine Reading Recommendations

Informational Reads & Human Interest Stories

Added 4.4.2022

Ukrainian orphans en route to Scotland after landing in UK, Tom Ambrose, *The Guardian*, 3/23/22

Perspective | A Jewish girl was saved by a Ukrainian family during World War II. Now her grandchildren are returning the favor. Daniella Greenbaum, *The Washington Post*, 3/12/22

Previously Listed Articles

'Things Will Only Get Worse' Putin's War Sends Russians Into Exile. Anton Troianovski and Patrick Kingsley, *NY Times*, 3/14/22

Ukraine's Only Woman Rabbi Among the Many Jews Fleeing War, Vanessa Gera, *Associated Press*, 3/13/22

19 NY Rabbis Head to Poland to Distribute Food, Medical Aid to Ukrainian Refugees, Julia Gergely, *Times of Israel*, 3/12/22

Harvard Teens Made a Website Matching Ukrainian Refugees With People Offering Places to Stay Cathy Free, *Washington Post*, 3/10/22

Jewish New Yorkers Unite to Raise Millions for Ukraine, Liam Stack, *NY Times*, 3/4/22

Ukrainians Are Using the Quiet Resistance Tools They Need, Gal Beckerman, *The Atlantic*, 3/15/22

Putin's Nuclear Threats are a Wake-Up Call for the World, Uri Friedman, *The Atlantic*, 3/15/22

Ukraine, Afghan Resettlement Top of Mind for Refugee Shabbat, Ayelet Parness, HIAS.org

We've Never Been Smuggled Before, Matthieu Aikens, *NY Times*, 2/14/2022

How Zelensky Gave the World a Jewish Hero, Gal Beckerman, *The Atlantic*, 2/27/2022

What Volodymyr Zelenky's Courage Says About the West, Tom McTague, *The Atlantic*, 2/28/2022

Ukrainian Jews Need Our Help. Here's How Jews Can Act Now , Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS, *Forward on* 2/28/2022.