A Journey of Help for Colleagues in Ukraine and Their Patients

After the invasion of Russian military forces into Ukraine, we hoped the warfare would be over in a few days. But the situation has now been ongoing for over 60 days. Instead of attacks being focused on military units and institutions, civil society is fighting for survival.

At the EPA, everything started with weekly zoom meetings from 12:00 to 13:00 including colleagues from Ukraine and the neighbouring countries and to discuss the current situation for them and their patients. We were told that medication and other medical equipment were needed to enable our colleagues to treat and help their patients. A specific fund was opened at the EPA to receive donations from individuals and National Psychiatric Associations which could then be used to buy the much-needed medications.

Read more...

Prof. Peter Falkai
President
EPA

The EPA Fund for Ukraine

Dear Colleagues!

The EPA has established the ‘Fund for Ukraine’ to support Ukrainian psychiatric units and patients, by collecting money for purchasing medications, equipment and basic necessities, which are then shipped to Ukraine. Here is a short video introducing the EPA Fund for Ukraine.

We would like to thank the following NPAs for their generous donations to the Fund: the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, the Croatian
Psychiatric Association, the Hungarian Psychiatric Association and the Finnish Psychiatric Association.

Please disseminate the information about the ‘Fund for Ukraine’ among the members of your NPA, your colleagues and the wider community. If each and every NPA member were to donate just 1 euro (and we hope you would donate a bit more!) we could perhaps reach one of our goals of purchasing a bigger piece of much needed equipment, for example an ambulance or an electricity generator.

We need your help and that of your society and we need to act together now!

Let’s get European psychiatrists, mental health workers and the mental health community at large involved in these efforts!

Read more...

Steering Committee of the Council of NPAs
Prof. Jerzy Samochowiec - Chair
Prof. Bernardo Carpiniello - Vice-chair
Prof. Eka Chkonia - Secretary

Membership of the Russian Society of Psychiatry

The EPA Board has carefully considered the position of the Russian Society of Psychiatry which has not been prepared to support the EPA statement condemning the Russian invasion and war on Ukraine in which innocent people, EPA members and psychiatric hospitals are being bombed. A decision has therefore regretfully been taken by the Board to suspend the membership of the Russian Society of Psychiatry.

The EPA continues to welcome Russian members, both NPA and Individual, who endorse the EPA statement condemning the Russian invasion.

The EPA hopes that in due course circumstances and positions will change to allow the full reinstatement of suspended Russian members.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Board
Prof. Dr Peter Falkai – EPA President
Prof. Geert Dom – EPA President-elect
Prof. Philip Gorwood – EPA Past President
The EPA’s Support and Cooperation with the Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine During the War

From the first days of the invasion of Russia into Ukraine, the Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine has been actively working to improve the mental health of the population, patients with mental health disorders, as well as forcibly displaced people.

It should be pointed out that the significant number of our Association’s activities are supported by the European Psychiatric Association through the EPA Network of Solidarity for Ukraine, which was established to actively coordinate the aid for our country. Thanks to the powerful work of this platform under the leadership of the EPA President Prof. Peter Falkai, humanitarian assistance is provided and a series of webinars ‘Help for Helpers’ were organised.

Read more...

Prof. Nataliya O. Maruta  
Acting President  
Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine

‘Help for Helpers’: Problems and Solutions

The programme ‘Help for Helpers’ is one of the activities developed by the EPA Network of Solidarity for Ukraine. This network was initiated by European psychiatrists asking for support and specific education in the field of war trauma to be prepared to help displaced people coming from Ukraine. ‘Help for Helpers’ is a toolkit for providing support to first line helpers in countries with refugees from Ukraine.

The webinars will be available in English and several other languages. They will be freely accessible at: https://www.europsy.net/resource-page/

Read more...

Prof. Nataliya O. Maruta, Acting President,  
Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine  
Prof. Martina Röjnic Kuzman,  
Official Representative  
Croatian Psychiatric Association
Situation on the Ground

Dear colleagues and friends!

We have a huge flow of refugees, adults and children, and among them - people with acute psychiatric disturbances and those with a past history of mental disorders.

We, the representatives of the psychiatric community in Ukraine, call on all our colleagues, the entire psychiatric community, to help us save our patients and citizens of Ukraine in these critical times.

Our team in Kulparkiv (KNP LOR LOCLP) is currently the only psychiatric institution that can serve as a type of psychiatric hub for the needs of all Ukraine.

Let us unite, help and win for the sake of good, life and freedom!

Dr Yurij Zakal
Vice President
Ukrainian Association of Psychiatrists
Vice Director
Lviv Regional Psychiatric Hospital, Kulparkov

Translated from Ukrainian to English by Dr. Sergiusz Michniak

From the Polish Psychiatric Association

The Polish Psychiatric Association (PTP) started its action of humanitarian aid from the very beginning.

On behalf of those who have received support from the PTP, we would like to thank all the generous donors. So far, we have bought and sent supplies to psychiatric hospitals in Ukraine and wish to reassure our Ukrainian colleagues that the PTP, in collaboration with the EPA and the entire Council of NPAs, will do their best to help and support them and their patients by all possible means.

The PTP have sent basic equipment, sleeping mats, bedding, mattresses, backpacks, cleaning products, personal hygiene products, tools for renovation and construction. We also managed to send psychiatric medication through the Polish Agency for Materials and Strategic Reserves.

Currently, the greatest reported demand is for long-acting neuroleptics.

Prof. Jerzy Samochowiec
President
Polish Psychiatric Association
From the Podkarpackie Branch of the Polish Psychiatric Association

“Yet another bus with humanitarian aid was sent to Lviv only last week. It carried mattresses, blankets, bedding, wheelchairs, disposable tableware, adult diapers, towels, dressings, medications, and sets for children. The help went to the Psychiatric Hospital in Lviv-Kulparkow and the Regional Psychoneurological Clinic, with additional hygiene products sent to the Children's Rehabilitation Centre. All those items were purchased from the funds transferred to our non-public healthcare centre's account. On site, we employ a Ukrainian refugee psychiatrist, who provides assistance to Ukrainian children and their guardians in Przemyśl and the surrounding area, and who has already performed several dozen consultations. School kits and sweets were also purchased for refugee children,” informs Dr. Maciej Kuligowski from the Podkarpackie Branch of the Polish Psychiatric Association.

Read more...

Dr Maciej Kuligowski
Podkarpackie Branch
Polish Psychiatric Association

From the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics

The German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (DGPPN) condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

A donation of 15 000 euros has been made by the DGPPN to the EPA to purchase and ship psychiatric medication to Ukraine. A new webpage on the DGPPN website has also been created to include our position with regards to the war as well as our initiatives to support our Ukrainian colleagues and their patients. These initiatives include:

- a call for donations
- a call for volunteers in clinics and medical practices who speak Russian and/or Ukrainian for assistance in Germany. Volunteers are invited to fill out a questionnaire.
- a list of helpful links for Ukrainian refugees.

Prof. Andreas Reif
Official Representative
German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics
From the Hungarian Psychiatric Association

The Hungarian Psychiatric Association (HPA) reacted swiftly to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and set up crisis teams responsible for collecting relevant information to aid people in treating and coping with traumatising events. They are actively participating in the weekly EPA Network of Solidarity for Ukraine meetings, and have listed professionals available to give support to people in need. Foundations and healthcare providers cooperate in providing non-stop health care and mental health support for people affected by the war and organise activities for families.

Furthermore, besides financial donations, the HPA waives the registration fee and provides free accommodation for their annual congress to Ukrainian psychiatrists.

Dr György Szekeres
President
Dr Dorottya Öri
Medical Secretary
Hungarian Psychiatric Association

RCPsych Response to the War in Ukraine

The RCPsych was quick to launch the College response to the conflict in Ukraine page on the RCPsych website. The page is a collection of RCPsych resources for psychiatrists and frontliners who may be able to help others in relation to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. It also invites Members to donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee’s (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. A variety of resources are freely accessible on the RCPsych dedicated website page and were shared with our partners in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

RCPsych leadership meets weekly to ensure that the College’s response is timely and fit for needs on the ground. In order to ensure that the RCPsych has a uniform response to all global crises, it will adopt an Emergency Response Plan, to be triggered when the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) issues a formal appeal.

Read more...

Agnes Raboczki
International Liaison Manager
Royal College of Psychiatrists
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<td>Annual Meeting &amp; 1st International 25th National Clinical Education Symposia</td>
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- Jerzy Samochowiec (Poland)
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