



CNEWA Canada *a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support*
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PRESS RELEASE
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CNEWA calls on immediate support for Ukrainians displaced by war

Ottawa, Ontario, May 25, 2015 – According to the United Nations, there are more than one million displaced people in Ukraine and another half a million seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Despite a ceasefire, daily violence remains a constant, with the death toll increasing and more families fleeing to save their lives from oppressive pro-Kremlin forces. The fear that a major conflict will erupt at any moment is high.

“We received dramatic calls for help from the local Catholic church and its relief organization Caritas Ukraine that provides care for desperate families forced to escape the conflict zones of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions,” said Carl Héту, National Director of CNEWA Canada. “These people were already very poor, but now they’ve lost their homes, their church, their way of life and don’t know if they will ever be able to go back.”

“The Ukrainian people have gone through so much violence in their history and just when peace and hope seemed within their grasp, Russian aggression, once again, is trying to stop this dream from coming true,” said Winnipeg’s Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop Lawrence Huculak, who is a CNEWA Canada board member. “I invite the Canadian population to be generous in helping these frightened people in need of shelter and basic supplies who, above all, need to regain their dignity and hope in these turbulent times.”

Through their actions of the past year, the Ukrainian people have taken their destiny in their own hands and made a commitment to build a truly democratic and inclusive country that embraces its ethnic and religious diversity, added Héту. “However the military threat from Russia and pro-Russian forces is threatening the future of Ukraine and has caused great suffering to innocent families.”

Canadians interested in making donations to help CNEWA and its partners in Ukraine are invited to do so by visiting www.cnewa.ca or to write a cheque to CNEWA Canada (Marked Emergency Ukraine) at 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 6K9 or by phone at 1-866-322-4441. As a registered charity, CNEWA will issue a tax receipt.

About CNEWA

CNEWA, founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926, works on behalf of Eastern churches all over the world. After 45 years of oppression by the Soviet Union, CNEWA has been helping the Ukrainian Catholic

church to re-establish itself since 1993 through the renovation of churches, providing aid to seminarians, supporting the Ukrainian Catholic University and many social service initiatives to help the poor and marginalized. In 2015, this agency of the Holy See marks its 10th year in Canada, running programs in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

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Source : Carl Hétu, National Director, Canada
Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)

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