

# a letter from Ukraine

Boîte de réception



**Galina Poliakova**

mer. 14  
sept.

À dirkjarre, dana.steinova, Jaap, Vajs, moi, moiraallan

Dear EURAG, dear colleagues, dear friends!

I am so sorry that I can't be with you these days.

I want to congratulate you all with the EURAG birthday.

I wish you all PEACE! Peace above all.

Ukraine is fighting. There were introduced the martial law and curfew. Many Ukrainian cities are heavily bombed. Some cities are beyond repair- they don't exist anymore. The cases of deaths haven't been calculated, yet.

About 5 million left the country, another 2 million moved to the West of Ukraine. Many medical and social workers and officials have left. Younger people prefer to leave, older – prefer to stay at home.

So, the role of volunteers becomes more prominent. TLU volunteers attend lonely old people, bring them food, medicines, provide practical help at home, etc. In the Western Ukraine they support IDPs.

There is a big category of old people who have no families at all – the residents of the 246 nursing homes for old people both of geriatric and psychoneurological profile. Today many of these facilities are in the areas occupied by Russians or in the zones of war activities. These institutions are blocked: no food, no hygiene items, no medicines can be delivered to the residents, old people suffer from shelling and bombing. Several institutions were completely ruined by rocket attacks. The residents of many nursing homes have been evacuated to the Central and Western Ukraine and local nursing homes have to accommodate and to care for additional 100-200 old helpless people in each institution.

Winter is coming. We'll hardly pass it without cataclysms. After all, even if we manage to store enough gas, there is no guarantee that the enemy will not damage gas networks and infrastructure facilities, making it impossible to heat apartment buildings and institutions. They can do the same with power supply facilities by destroying transformer substations and power lines.

This assumption is confirmed by practice: a few days ago, Russians destroyed a thermal power plant in Kharkov with a missile attack. Not only public transport and residential areas were left without power supply, but also hospitals. Without electricity, water supply and sewerage do not work.

In the towns and villages liberated by the Ukrainian armed forces, the evidence of war crimes, as in Bucha and Irpin, were found. Due to the huge destruction of

residential buildings and infrastructure, most vulnerable groups of the population, elderly and children, will be evacuated to where they can survive the winter.

I don't complain. I inform.

I ask you for help. We still need it. Please, help older vulnerable people to survive the coming winter. Please, find donors in your countries to support our efforts. We are all in one boat.

And the last, but not the least:

We greatly appreciate support provided by the whole world, by every country. Every support. Especially we are grateful to our closest neighbours - Poland and Baltic states - we feel their help and their hearts.

We would like to thank the Czech non-governmental organisation - Sue Ryder. Within one month, a total of 1,5 million CZK was raised from 300 donors. They were joined by large companies such as foundation Abakus, Clifford Chance LLP, BH Securities, The Lady Ryder of Warsaw Memorial Trust and Digital Ant s.r.o. and ordinary citizens of this beautiful country. This is truly people's support and we appreciate it. We are grateful with all our hearts.

Hoping to see you all soon,

Much love,

Galina