Дом Друзей в Москве

Friends House Moscow

info@friendshousemoscow.org
https://www.friendshousemoscow.org/

Newsletter Spring 2022

This newsletter is a quick round-up of what has been happening with FHM since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. You can find more general information about Ukraine on our website here:

https://friendshousemoscow.org/news-about-ukraine/

including news of Friends in Kyiv, and details of online Meetings for Worship to hold Ukraine in the Light.

In Ukraine...

FHM supports the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Ukraine, by helping with running costs. AVP is an international movement that gives training to individuals to help them respond to threatening situations in a nonviolent way.

The group works in Odessa, Kharkiv and other cities. Participants in their workshops include psychologists, teachers and other professionals, students, and young people in detention facilities.

Immediately following the invasion they had to suspend their activities. Some of the facilitators left Ukraine to go to other countries, with an intention of helping refugees. We now hear they have returned, and we are glad to report that >>>

(Maps drawn using www.mapchart.net)

they hope to continue with their programme as originally planned. They are also thinking of expanding into a much-needed new kind of work to help people cope with trauma.

From an AVP workshop in Kharkiv (Ukraine) in 2018

In Estonia...

As a new project, we are supporting Quakers in Talinn (Estonia) to start a new AVP programme. The group has previously done AVP work in prisons, but this is different...

Refugees from Ukraine have arrived in Estonia. About 24% of the population in Estonia are ethnic Russians - who tend (rightly or wrongly) to feel they are treated as second-class citizens. In April 2007 the relocation of a Soviet-era statue ignited rioting between ethnic groups ("Bronze Night"). It is feared that the arrival of Ukrainian refugees will stir up tensions again, and possibly lead to conflict.

The plan is to run workshops for groups of mixed ethnicity, in the hope that people can be brought together to work for peace.

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In central Europe (Poland, Hungary, Estonia, ...?)

In central Europe, the Quaker Central Europe Gathering (CEG) is supporting humanitarian work with refugees from Ukraine.

FHM is helping to channel money to them - this is as a supplement to funds coming via FWCC/EMES (Friends World Committee for Consultation, Europe and Middle East Branch): https://fwccemes.org/news/quaker-support-for-ukraine

Several projects are already being supported:

- SWPS Univrsity, Warsaw, CBT clinic offering psychological support to adults and children;
- Hungarian Reform Church Aid for work with children;
- Migration Aid, also working with child refugees in Hungary;

and funding for more projects is in the pipeline:

- in Estonia, for Covid 19 tests and school books;

- in Warsaw and Krakow, working with Ukrainians with sensory or physical disabilities.

Also, possible work in the Czech Republic for Ukrainian Roma is being considered.

Please note: these are not *FHM projects* - the work is being evaluated, chosen and monitored by the CEG. The role of FHM is to help collect funds and send them on.

And in Russia...

Our work in Russia continues. It is being impacted by international sanctions which mean that our "usual" ways of transferring funds have been cut off. Fortunately we were able to transfer a large amount of money before sanctions kicked in, which means that for a few months at least the work is safe.

Kids at the Refugee Centre in Moscow

We are continuing to look at alternative ways of funds transfer that are both (a) practical, and (b) legal (do not violate sanctions).

If you would like to donate for a specific project, see instructions below, and please email us at info@friendshousemoscow.org to say which project you want to support. For CEG projects you can also donate via FWCC/EMES, see their website link above.

Please donate to Friends House Moscow

Donate online at www.friendshousemoscow.org or send donations to:

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Friends House Moscow
Unit 14451
PO Box 6945
London W1A 6US, U.K.

In North America:
Friends House Moscow Support Association
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