

UPF HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY FOR 2022/23

UPF invites you to support the Red Cross by friending them on social media as well as with financial contributions.



**British
RedCross**

Webpage: [https:// www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/donate](https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/donate)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BritishRedCross>

As Feargus O'Connor, a stalwart Peace Fellowship committee member, wrote (about the invasion of Ukraine) in *The Inquirer*, "We are seeing a terrifying tragedy unfold before our eyes. The people of Ukraine are facing the worst disaster and Europe as a whole our most dangerous political crisis since the Second World War.

"Approximately 10,500,000 Ukrainians, including over 4,800,000 children, have been displaced: around 6,500,000 internally displaced and almost 5,000,000 have already fled the country in desperation as refugees in this rapidly escalating crisis... Homes, schools and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Water, electricity and other essential facilities have been badly disrupted. Landmines and other devastating weapons are killing many innocent civilians.

"Bombs are rained down on Ukrainian cities. Innocent civilians, including defenceless women, children and the elderly, are subjected to incessant shelling and are forced to take cover in basements and shelters. They endure days without water, food and other basic supplies.

"By donating to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal you will help Ukrainian victims of war by:

- supporting families with food, warm clothing, first aid and medicines
- taking people to hospitals, transporting medical supplies and helping set up blood donation units
- supporting and funding hospitals and primary healthcare facilities, fire fighters and civil protection units
- repairing homes, schools and community centres
- and rebuilding or replacing Ukraine's vital infrastructure damaged or destroyed by war."

All this is true, and I was delighted that the General Assembly chose to donate the offertory (more than £5,000) collected at the Anniversary Service of the recent GA meetings to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Yet as we discovered at the Peace Fellowship session at the same GA meetings, there are more than twenty other countries around the world, whose population has suffered more than 10,000 battle-related deaths in the past twelve months. None of whom are making any substantial headlines, but all of whom are in need of humanitarian aid such as that described above.

So the Peace Fellowship Committee has decided to make this year's Appeal for the British Red Cross in general, rather than just for the crisis in Ukraine. Please send your cheques, made payable to 'Unitarian Peace Fellowship' and endorsed on the back with '2022/23 Appeal' to our Treasurer, Rev Celia Cartwright (address on back page).

Thank you.

Rev Sue Woolley, President of the General Assembly