

MARCH
2022



ECE[®] Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.



Dear Friends,

It seems that with every month a new crisis emerges. Past crises have put us all on edge as we attempt to find ways to help. And this current one in Ukraine is no different. ECE[®] staff have been reaching out to colleagues in Ukraine to make sure they are safe. Some of our very own staff are from Ukraine and continue to stay in touch with family and friends.

Similar to past international emergencies, we've felt the urgency of this current crisis. Our staff continue to provide accurate and fair evaluations while respecting the sensitivity of what folks may be experiencing. Though ministry and school websites may be down at times, or contacting a university in Ukraine may be difficult or impossible, our staff remains committed to assisting and supporting those we serve.

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Margit Schatzman,
President of ECE**

**Ukraine Emergency
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In this month's issue you'll find a timely statement from ECE® President, Margit Schatzman, on what the crisis in Ukraine has meant for her. You'll also read about what ECE is doing through our Ukraine Emergency Response. My own hope is for clearer heads to prevail and a quick, peaceful end to this conflict. Time will tell.

A statement from Margit Schatzman, President of ECE

I spent the evening of February 24 consoling my 89-year-old mother who was reeling from the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Through her sobs, she stammered in her German accent, “It’s 1939 all over again.



Erna Pohl was born in Germany in 1932. A few months after her birth, the National Socialist Workers’ Party won control of the government in a country humiliated by the defeat following the First World War. In 1939 Hitler, using a pretext of rescuing a German minority population, invaded Poland. The ensuing conflagration that was World War II wound down for my mother as the Red Army marched across eastern Germany. Many a German woman and girl paid the price at the hands of Soviet soldiers exacting revenge for Hitler’s slaughter of innocent Russians.

Once again, in Ukraine, innocents are paying the price for the fetishes of a megalomaniac who is leveraging the geopolitical and historical complications of a region to fulfill his own obsession with power.

A Russian-born colleague was visibly distressed by her own parents, in Moscow, who still supported Putin up through last week. They believe his contortion of history, told to the Russian public, to whip up public support for yet another war. Russian mothers and fathers will give up sons to die on the battlefield as soldiers, sacrificed for the vision of a Motherland, conceived of by a soulless tyrant, devoid of humanity.

My mother had her own take on the topic of propaganda. A refugee from communist East Germany, she is no apologist for the crimes of humanity carried out by Germans. She insisted that her young daughters visit the Buchenwald Concentration Camp so that they understood that Germany was a country of both the genius, Goethe, and the monster, Hitler.

Erna recalled the well-meaning and somewhat naïve, if not smug, comments of Americans who after World War II marveled at the ignorance of the common German. How could they not know about the terror of the Nazis? The Final Solution. The fate of their Jewish, Gypsy, handicapped, and homosexual fellow citizens. My mother, as a schoolgirl, believed what she was told by her teachers, the newspapers, and the radio. How was she to know otherwise? Her parents questioned the official version but fearing the consequences of the slip of a child's tongue in public, never dared share their doubts in front of their daughter.

Where does this leave us? We live in world of the power-hungry who care little for the modest hopes of the common world citizen for sustenance, security, and the desire to make their children's lives just a little better than their own. We are in a time and place where ignorance of facts and history, combined with a sense of entitlement and superiority, can create a toxic world view that diminishes the humanity of others. This is not "their" world. It is our world. In Milan and Milwaukee and Managua and Mumbai.

We condemn the actions and inactions of the Russian leaders. Let us not forget to turn our gaze inward and critically examine our own legacies, both beautiful and beastly. Civilization is a very thin veneer that depends on the constant efforts of the good, wise, and righteous over the ignorant, arrogant, and indifferent.

Who is responsible for preventing 2022, all over again?

Margit Schatzman, President





Ukraine Emergency Response

With the recent pledge of President Biden to welcome 100,000 refugees from Ukraine, ECE is providing additional support. We will begin by donating 25 fee waivers through our ECE® Aid participants to newly displaced refugees from Ukraine. These free reports will be funded directly by ECE. As conditions and needs become clearer, we will assist as many people of forced displacement as we can.

We continue to ask for donations and are working with our international, national, regional, and community partners to find other ways in which we can support more people.

**Support ongoing ECE® Aid efforts to assist
as many refugees as we can!**



Be safe, be kind, and be well.

With gratitude,

Zachary Holochwost (he/him/his)

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