

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spring Zoom Meeting March 26, 2022, Oral Report
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The war in the Ukraine has brought attention to the plight of refugees and immigrants, and the rights of citizens in the Ukraine. How should we respond? We can learn about the situation, listen to the people affected, and act according to the resources available to us.

Many relief agencies, governments and other bodies are currently working to provide aid to Ukraine like the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Development and Peace. The CWL has a history of working with both of these agencies.

Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 caused large sections of the Ukrainian population to be displaced. Four weeks into this current invasion by the Russian military, the United Nations estimates up to ten million Ukrainians have been displaced either within the country or by fleeing to other countries. Human casualties and the physical destruction mount daily.

Members of the CWL are encouraged to support the humanitarian effort. CNEWA will direct monetary donations to Caritas Ukraine or the Ukrainian Catholic Church to provide basic food, shelter, and health care for those affected by the war. Development and Peace is also mobilizing humanitarian aid through Caritas Ukraine. Considering the damage already inflicted upon Ukraine and the continuing scale of the war, humanitarian aid will be needed for a long time to come.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be our intercessor as we pray for peace at home and abroad as we use our resources to find ways to support the Ukrainian people in their time of need and take hope in their resilience of spirit as they fight for their lives, their freedom, their sovereign state, their families and communities, and their cultural heritage.

Respectfully submitted