Religious communities in Russia dispatch humanitarian aid to children in Syria



DECR Communication Service, 21.12.2022.

In December 2022, religious communities in Russia dispatched humanitarian aid, a consignment of electronic equipment for the Ar-Rahmah boarding school for orphans in Damascus. This project was implemented in response to a request from the Syrian part of the Interreligious Working Group for Defending the Rights of Believers against Discrimination and Xenophobia under the Presidential Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations. Created with a blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, the working group is coordinated by the DECR chairman, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk. The group is headed by DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations, Hieromonk Stephen (Igumnov).

Since 2017, group has implemented several humanitarian projects in Syria in support of the ongoing

process of the country's revival after the war. Among its major projects is the restoration of the school in the Barza district in Damascus in the summer 2019.

In the current month, with the considerable participation of the Moslem Board of the Republic of Tatarstan, a fund-raising campaign has been carried out for purchasing and dispatching office equipment to the Ar-Rahmah boarding school.

A special help in organizing the campaign was given by Hassan Fayyez Nasrallah and his regional religious public organization 'Arab Diaspora in Russia' and the Imam-Mohtasib of Nizhnekamsk and Niznekamsk Region of the Republic of Tatarstan, Salikh Khazrat Ibragimov.

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The Interreligious Working Group for the Defence of the Right of Believers against Discrimination and Xenophobia of the Presidential Council for Cooperation with Religious Association was formed in 2017 as an interreligious working group for aid to the Syrian population. It unites representatives of most religious communities in Russia. In July 2021, it was decided to include in its work the monitoring of the situation of religious communities in various regions of the world and giving aid to them. In 2022, it carried out several actions to give humanitarian aid to people in Donbass.

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