



## Report on church relief aid to people affected by hostilities in Kursk region as of 12th August 2024



### **DECR Communication service, 13.08.2024.**

On August 12, 2024, a meeting of the temporary operational headquarters for assisting refugees and displaced persons was held under the chairmanship of Metropolitan German of Kursk and Rylsk. Specialists from the Synodal Department for Church Charity and Social Ministry participated in the meeting. Based on the experience of consultants from the Synodal Department for Charity, a decision was made to organize a church assistance center for people at the territory of the Holy Trinity Convent in Kursk. Preparations for the premises of the future center and warehouse for receiving residents of the Kursk region have begun.

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Over the course of one day, the hotline of the Synodal Department for Charity at 8-800-70-70-222 received 49 inquiries from the Kursk region. Of those, 22 requested assistance, and 27 offered their help. A closed Telegram channel was created to help those in need of housing find current offers.

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The number of families contacting the Moscow headquarters for refugee assistance at the Synodal Department for Charity doubled compared to the previous day. On that day, 19 families (56 people) from the Kursk region reached out. Almost all arrived to stay with relatives or acquaintances. Individual assistance was provided to each family, and necessary humanitarian aid (food, hygiene products, household chemicals, bedding, medications) was distributed. Two families received help with accommodation for the coming days. On that day, the Moscow headquarters received 92 deliveries of aid from churches and concerned citizens.

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A shipment of 20 tons of humanitarian aid arrived in Kursk, delivered by the head of the "Orthodox Volunteers" movement, Mikhail Kuksov. The cargo was formed in collaboration with the Social Department of the Holy Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius and the Sergiev Posad Diocese. The shipment included food, medications, and personal hygiene products. Unloading was carried out with the participation of employees from the Synodal Department for Charity and Orthodox volunteers from the Kursk Diocese. More than 4 tons of humanitarian aid were immediately distributed to several hospitals in the city and to the humanitarian aid center at the youth department of the diocese.

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By the blessing of Metropolitan Sergey of Voronezh and Liski, the head of the youth department of the Voronezh Diocese, Archpriest Nikolai Lishchenyuk, arrived in Kursk with a shipment of humanitarian aid for the humanitarian aid center at the youth department of the Kursk Diocese. The cargo included 4 tons of food, hygiene products, and medications. On that day, over 350 families received assistance at the center of the youth department, with the participation of more than 140 volunteers.

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Elena Ivanova, a specialist from the Synodal Department for Charity, along with Archpriest Pavel Kostin, the head of the Social Department of the Kursk Diocese, visited the temporary accommodation center "Olympiets," where more than 700 refugees are housed. They assessed the needs of the people and established contact with the administration of the center.

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It has been reported that as a result of military actions, the Ascension Church-Chapel in the village of Krasnooktyabrskoye, Korenevsky District, was damaged. Of the three priests who had not evacuated earlier, two eventually evacuated to the regional center. There is still no information on the fate of the rector of the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos in the village of Guyevo, Hieromonk Simeon (Borukh). Communication with him is absent, reports diaconia.ru.