

APPEAL for donations for refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border



Sisters and brothers!

In recent weeks, we have been receiving reports on people who are staying in the border area between Poland and Belarus. Every day, the situation becomes more and more difficult - not every person has the opportunity to formally apply for international protection, and the processes of legalising their stay take a long time. Groups of people, including families with small children, are staying outside any building, seeking shelter and assistance. The increasingly low temperature and adverse weather conditions cause extreme cold. What is more, there are also confirmed cases where people have died because they did not receive help. Moving testimonies, harrowing first-hand experiences and the crisis situation at the border mean that direct assistance is still needed.

As Christians, we are called to show mercy to people in need and to take an active care. Helping those who find themselves in difficult life situations is, in this context, a supreme value, regardless of one's origin, religion or social position. This is why we cannot remain indifferent to the fate of those who wish to start a new life far from conflict, persecution, inequality and social injustice.

Diakonia Poland appeals for donations for refugees who reach Poland crossing the border with Belarus. We launch aid support both for refugees and migrants incarcerated in detention centres and for those who cross the Polish border and do not have access to dry and warm clothes, accommodation or meals. Calling for legal solutions that will not deprive people of the dignity and respect, let us show our solidarity by donating basic necessities for the autumn period. The aid kits prepared by Diakonia Poland include water, energy bars, gel hand warmers, plasters, thermal wrap and fleece blankets. For those who find themselves in one of the Polish centres for foreigners, support will be provided through a given institution – after need identification, clothing, hygiene products, food and art materials for children will be donated.

Donations for refugee relief can be made through Lutheran parishes in Poland or individually until 15 December 2021 to the Diakonia account with the reference note "Refugees":

Name of the Bank:	Bank PEKAO S.A., I O/Warszawa
Address:	Pl. Bankowy 2, 00-950 Warszawa
Account holder:	Diakonia Kościoła Ewangelicko-Augsburskiego w RP 00-246 Warszawa, ul. Miodowa 21
IBAN-bank account number:	PL 56 1240 1037 1978 0000 0693 1401 (EUR)
SWIFT code:	PKOPPLPW

With Christian greetings

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jerzy Samiec".

Bishop Jerzy Samiec
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Church
of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ryszard Bogusz".

Bishop Ryszard Bogusz
President of Diakonia Poland

Warsaw, 21.10.2021