



Sopot, 07.03.2022

Mr Martin Bruns
Erster Stadtrat und stellvertretender
Bürgermeister
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The war in Ukraine began on Thursday, February 24. Since that day, Russian soldiers have been trying to take control of Ukrainian cities, and the targets of the attacks are both military and civilian facilities.

This led to an enormous emigration of civilians, escaping from areas where the war is taking place. Refugees, mainly women with children, go among others, to Poland. They usually come only with one suitcase, and sometimes they have absolutely nothing.

In order to coordinate aid activities and provide refugees with the best possible support, the Ukraine Support Center was established in Sopot. The three-story building, which has been wholly adapted for the needs of refugees, is located in the very center of the city, near the train station. It is a place of reception for all those who come and will come to Sopot. It is also a place of support, information and integration. In the Center there is a reception, sleeping rooms, a warehouse for clothes, cosmetics, hygiene products and food, also for children. There is also a common room, a playground for children, rooms for meetings with psychologists or other specialists and an internet cafe which allows to get in touch with the family. The center is open 24 hours a day. City officers and volunteers are all over day and night there, helping those who are coming. All persons who come to the Ukraine Support Center are then directed to accommodation places, prepared by the city or those offered by private persons. The city provides transport to these places, meals, psychological or health-related assistance, nursing services and the financial benefits. Parents will also receive information about schools, kindergarten or other day-care and additional activities for children. The city of Sopot will also pay for meals in schools and for preschool education of Ukrainian children who came to us after February 24. It is very important they can integrate as soon as possible.

The most important thing is that, thanks to a special law, the refugees will be able to work in Poland at once. Now we appeal to employers who have the opportunity to employ people from



Ukraine to send their offers. This will be a great opportunity for the Ukrainians staying in Poland to be independent.

I would also like to underline that many people declared their support on different fields – they are collecting things, buying what is needed, offering their own flats and meals or working as volunteers.

On behalf of the local government authorities and the inhabitants of Sopot, we express our firm objection to the unjustified military aggression carried out by the Russian Federation and violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

We fully condemn the military activities carried out by the Russian Federation. We also condemn Belarus' involvement in aggression against Ukraine. Russia bears full responsibility for the act of aggression and for any damage and loss it causes.

Sopot has always been a tolerant city, where citizens of different countries, religions and cultures could live on equal terms. We express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, who are defending their country today, who, due to the armed attack by Russian and then Belarusian troops, had to part with their families, live in great danger and fear for the fate of the country and their relatives.

At the same time, we terminate the cooperation agreement between Sopot and Peterhof with immediate effect.

Today, it is up to each of us how the fate of Ukraine, Europe and the whole world unfolds. That is why we ask everyone to express their opposition to the war started by Putin. Please, do not be neutral in this situation.

If you would like to help us, we mainly need beds and mattresses. This is something what is very difficult to buy now in Poland. We would be more than grateful for your help.



Respectfully yours,

Jacek Karnowski