



The Four Children of Ukraine

There are the Four Children of the Passover Haggadah. This year, the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) adds the Four Children of Ukraine. // As we gather around our Seder tables, let us all tell, embrace and share their stories of struggle, hope and freedom. // **One is in Ukraine, one is a refugee, one helps them and there is one whose chair is empty.**

What does the one in Ukraine say?

"Hope lives in my heart."

Mira is a member of the Jewish Progressive Community Shirat ha-Yam in Odesa. Her husband has special needs and her daughter has lived with a host family in Spain since the beginning of the war.

She says: "We are traumatised, and we will never be the same. But hope lives in my heart. Simple things have become very valuable. Giving me strength is my desire to live and the sense of gratitude to all people who support me."

We need to listen to the voices of the needy and the cries of the oppressed and do our best to support them and relieve their pain. As it is said:

**וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה צַעֲקַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאָה אֵלַי
וְגַם רָאִיתִי אֶת-הַלֶּחֶץ אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם לֹחֲצִים
אֹתָם: וְעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאַשְׁלַחְךָ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה.**

"I have heard the cries of the people of Israel, and I have seen the way the Egyptians have made life hard for them. Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh ..." (Exodus 3:9-10)

What does the Ukrainian refugee say?

"I will always remember your kindness."

Olga lived in Bucha, but when the war broke out, she was able to leave and go to Israel with her daughter.

She says: "I am safe now in Israel, and one day I plan to return to Ukraine. I am very grateful to the communities of Progressive Judaism who accepted me into their family and did not leave me alone in such a difficult situation for the world and for me in particular. I will always remember your kindness."

The success of one is the success of all Jewish people. The misfortune of one is the misfortune and call to action to all. As our rabbis said:

כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֵבִים זֶה בְּזֵה.

"The entire Jewish people are responsible for each other." (Shevuot 39a)

What does the one who helps Ukrainians say?

"Now is my turn to assist those in need."

Oleksandr is a Ukrainian lawyer who lives in London. He helps Ukrainian refugees with legal advice.

He says: "Jewish people all over the world have ancestors from Ukraine. When Jews fled pogroms, local people supported them and helped them to settle. Now is my turn to assist those in need."

As Jewish people, we have a moral obligation to support refugees who seek safety and dignity. As it is said:

**וְגַר לֹא תִלַּחֵץ וְאִתָּם יִדְעֶתֶם אֶת-נַפְשׁ
הַגֵּר כִּי-גֵרִים הָיִיתֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.**

"Do not oppress a stranger; you know how it feels to be strangers, because you were strangers in Egypt." (Exodus 23:9)

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is the international network of the Reform, Liberal, Progressive and Reconstructionist movements, serving an estimated 1.8 million members in more than 1,250 congregations in over 50 countries. Headquartered in Jerusalem, the WUPJ represents the largest body of Jews in the world who seek a traditional yet contemporary expression of their Jewish spiritual, cultural and religious identity. wupj.org

There is also one whose chair is empty.

This is one of the countless people who lost their lives in this war or suffered from injury or mental illness. With the hope for peace and redemption, we say:

הִי-שְׁלוֹם בְּחֵילְךָ שְׁלוֹה בְּאַרְמוֹנוֹתֶיךָ.

"May peace be found within her borders and quietness within her shelters!" (Ps. 122:7)

WUPJ thanks Rabbi Igor Zinkov of The Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London, Co-Chair of the WUPJ/EUPJ Ukraine Crisis Fund Committee, for this meaningful addition to your Haggadah.



Read the WUPJ Ukraine Crisis Fund Report 2022: wupj.org/ukraine/report/



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