

A VICTORY AND A CALL FOR VIGILANCE: CLIMATE JUSTICE

Of the places where everyday people are paying a terrible price for climate change, the countries of Central America loom large. So it is with profound gratitude that we bring you the news of Juana, José, and the Guapinol 8, and with renewed determination that we hope you will continue to help. Together, let us never forget...

Photo: Giulia Vuillemoz/Trocaire



With your commitment to a more just world behind them, Juana Zúñiga and her partner and member of the Guapinol 8, José Abelino Cedillo (not shown), are fighting to stop an open pit mine from stealing their right to clean water.

Juana Zúñiga has been subjected to threats, intimidation, and sexist slurs for fighting to protect her community's right to clean water. But all through the years when her partner José Abelino Cedillo was imprisoned as one of the 'Guapinol 8' for peacefully protesting the exploitation of their community's natural resources, this 37-year-old mother of three refused to keep silent. For good reason: the Guapinol river near their home, which provides water for thousands, is now severely polluted and beyond use for residents due to pollution from an open pit mine.

The pit mine in the national park

Despite the river's location inside the Carlos Escalera National Park, in 2013 the Honduran government allowed an iron oxide mine to be built in the protected area, and the river turned chocolate brown. Soon it wasn't fit for the animals, and

the people who had relied on the Guapinol for centuries were forced to buy bottled water for cooking and cleaning. "Three thousand people signed a declaration saying they wanted the area free from mining," Juana said, "but this has simply been filed away."

A victory and a call for vigilance

Through Trócaire and Irish Aid, your generosity has helped provide the ongoing legal support that recently saw a victory for water defenders: in the face of international outrage after a lower court sentenced the Guapinol 8 to up to 14 years, the Honduras Supreme Court accepted an appeal and freed the water defenders, including Juana's beloved partner José.

The family are overjoyed. And although Honduras is one of the world's deadliest countries to be a land and water defender, they intend to keep fighting: "We fight for our

children's future so they can live in a healthy environment where they have the freedom to express themselves, to go to the river, to enjoy the water with their friends. If we remain silent, we're accomplices of what is happening. This is a story, a legend of our struggle which will remain as an example for our children." Land and water rights are human rights: thank you for never giving up. ♥

LEARN MORE: For more on how your generosity supports people around the world who are taking a stand against injustice and oppression, visit: www.trocaire.org/our-work/human-rights/

FORGOTTEN CRISIS STATUS:

HONDURAS • NICARAGUA GUATEMALA

The three Central American countries where you help Trócaire work are **among the deadliest for environmentalists¹**, and the **most at-risk from climate chaos²**. That's why we're deeply grateful to you for standing alongside tireless land and water defenders in their quest for climate justice, and for those who bear the brunt of poverty and climate shocks. **Please never forget.**

Sources:
¹ Last Line of Defence 2020 Report, Global Witness, <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/last-line-defence/>
² State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020, World Meteorological Organization, <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/new-report-shows-impacts-of-climate-change-and-extreme-weather-latin-america-and>

www.trocaire.org

FOR THE LOVE YOUR LENT BOX STILL CAN HOLD...

Lent may have gone by. But if you still have a Trócaire Box at home, you can still change lives for the better. And this year, families caught in the forgotten crises of Covid, poverty, conflict, and climate change need the love of your Lent Box more than ever.

From helping with drought-resistant seed banks and solar-powered wells, to urgent food aid, critical medicines, and livelihoods training, your Lent Box lets families like Thandekile's know that they are not

forgotten. That in standing together, the chance at a better tomorrow can belong to us all. Please return your Trócaire Box today or give on trocaire.org/lent-appeal. Or help families like Thandekile's by calling in your gift to **1800 408 408** (Trócaire Maynooth) or **0800 912 1200** (Trócaire Belfast).

To all who so kindly donated this Lent, thank you... through these heartbreakingly hard months for humanity, your generosity and your compassion are rushing real relief around the globe. Today and always, you are our light against the darkness. Thank you. ♥



FOR EACH EXTRA BIT OF GOOD YOU DO, THANK YOU

Any time Trócaire supporters like you kindly give €250 or more in a year, and fill in the form that sets free 44.9% on your gifts in charity tax relief from the Revenue... or tick the UK Gift Aid boxes that allow us to receive an additional 25p in Gift Aid on

every £1 you give... each extra bit of good brings more help to those who suffer around the world. And that's a beautiful gift indeed. To find out if you participate in Gift Aid or charity tax relief schemes, see below. **And thank you for every bit of good you do.** ♥

How to confirm if you're participating, anytime:

For ROI Supporters: To confirm if you've given near €250 this year, contact us on **1800 408 408** or donorservices@trocaire.org, and we'll be delighted to help. (If you are already eligible, you will have received a special pack in April with a form to fill in.)

Trócaire
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Having multiple ways to communicate with you is always a massive help:

Phone and email are powerful, additional ways to stay in touch, hear how your donations change lives, and how you can help in the future. If we don't have your contact details and you'd like to hear from us by phone or email, please provide your contact number and/or email address below.

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please return your form in the freepost envelope provided, or post in any envelope to: **Trócaire, 20 Kildare Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland.**

Help your gift work faster, without leaving home: Give by Freephone on **0800 912 1200** (Give online at trocaire.org)

Trócaire

Ukrainian refugees Viktoria, Sonya, and Daniel have safe shelter
Photo: Philipp Spalek/Caritas Germany

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Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. We work with partners in over 20 countries in the developing world to empower communities to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure their human dignity. In Ireland, we raise awareness about the root causes of poverty and injustice, and advocate for change. ROI Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20204842, CHY22508, Company Number 661147, NI Charity Commission No: NIC 103321, Revenue Number (HMRC) XR10431, Company Number NI021482

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trócaire YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

News on how Trócaire supporters like you are conquering fear worldwide

Spring 2022

UKRAINE + FORGOTTEN CRISES:

For All the Good Still Left in This World

How your love and generosity are supporting the relief effort for Ukraine as a wave of weary refugees continues to flee, and what's at stake for families in forgotten crises, in places that are now more vulnerable than ever. For all the good still left in this world, thank you for being a light against the darkness.

♦ Read more inside...



Leaving everything behind to flee the terrifying Russian assault on Ukraine, a young refugee mother pulls her child close in an exhausted embrace of relief and love.

Photo: Reuters

FOR ALL THE GOOD STILL LEFT IN THIS WORLD, THANK YOU: UKRAINE + FORGOTTEN CRISES

THE POWER OF EARLY INTERVENTION

Trócaire CEO Caoimhe de Barra on the life-changing power of early intervention when possible, urgent response when needed, and how your commitment to a better world helps with both...

"It's hard to draw attention when the full crisis hasn't happened yet. But often when you're able to help sooner, the value can be even greater. For example, it's better in terms of human dignity and effectiveness if you can help prevent a family in southern Ethiopia from losing their livestock due to three seasons of failed rains, rather than acting after they've lost everything. At that point their children are suffering from malnutrition because there is no access to milk products, so you're looking at health supports as well,



Trócaire CEO Caoimhe de Barra with a family in Malawi

Photo: Trócaire

and their animals have died so it's then very hard for them to build back up a herd.

It is also true when crises happen that we don't undermine the importance of urgent humanitarian response. We should act and we must act. It's our human imperative. But to also be able to prevent that downward spiral of poverty when you can, say for example a family in Malawi, helping them to plant high-nutrient

early-maturing seeds that aren't wiped out if rains don't come, you won't just prevent them falling into disaster that one year, you'll help them build a cycle where they are feeding their family year round and potentially having surplus to sell. It's the absolute commitment to making this world a better place, to know we have the amazing supporter base behind us, it's such a privilege." ♥

With vulnerable people facing massive food shortages and economic upset due to the disruption of grain supplies and devastation in Ukraine, know the months ahead will be difficult ones for humanity. We are right now looking to what will be needed. For today, it is a comfort to know you are there. Never forgetting. Never giving up. A light in the darkness. Thank you for helping this work of the heart to go on...

SHE HEARS THE STORIES OF WAR

One of the most compassionate things you do when you give to Trócaire is to make sure people who feel forgotten by the world know that someone still sees them – and is still working, every day, to help. In Gaza, Olfat al-Kurd bears witness...



Photo: B'Tselem

Olfat al-Kurd is a mother of four who has lived through four wars – most recently the 11-day bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces last May.

"I told myself it was probably more sonic booms created by Israeli airplanes." But, she continues, "I quickly realised they were bombing Gaza." Olfat remembers how helpless she felt. "Why?" she asks. "What crime had we committed?"

This past year through Trócaire human rights partner B'Tselem, Olfat al-Kurd has travelled the Gaza Strip collecting the testimonies of victims and their families. A young man who'd lost his leg trying to save someone who was wounded. A woman who watched her home crumble to nothing. She laid down her pen and cried with the families. "It's never been easy," she says. But someone has to open the world's eyes to the truth. **Thank you for standing with the people of Gaza.** ♥

FORGOTTEN CRISIS STATUS:

MIDDLE EAST

In Yemen, in Syria, in Lebanon, in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, people have been battered by years of conflict and strife. **In some places, four out of five people now need humanitarian support.**¹ One mother in Yemen, displaced by war and living with her family in a tent, put her hopes for tomorrow simply: "I only wish to have a safe place to live and have food for my family." And as so much of the world turns away, it's a relief to know you're there. **Please never forget.**

Source:
¹ Yemen in Crisis: getting urgent medical support to pregnant women, <https://www.trocaire.org/news/yemen-in-crisis-getting-urgent-medical-support-to-pregnant-women/>

A POIGNANT REMINDER IN ETHIOPIA

Only a handful of years ago, Dhaki Bute sat beside her friends, Adi Jarso and Darmi Hacha, to share how your support for a Trócaire project in Ethiopia's southern Borana zone was helping their community to become stronger and more resilient. As the drought there deepens now, we look back on Dhaki's story as a reminder of how our shared humanity is worth protecting...

Once Dhaki Bute's only income was collecting and selling firewood. The 40-year-old widow saw no other recourse. "When my husband died," she said, "I couldn't look after our livestock, the children, the household, and collect water at the same time. Life was very challenging." Ethiopia's Borana zone was already plagued by drought, and Dhaki's walk



Dhaki Bute, Adi Jarso and Darmi Hacha

for water to survive consumed five hours every day.

Then a Trócaire project helped establish a women's co-operative near Dhaki, aimed at mitigating the effect of drought and helping households diversify income – including aloe vera soap production that became a success. Because of the income the co-op made from the soap, it could offer small loans to families for animal feed or food to get them through the lean times. "This type of financial security, especially in times of drought," said Dhaki, "is unheard of and makes me happy that

FORGOTTEN CRISIS STATUS:

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In the countries across Sub-Saharan Africa¹ where you help Trócaire to work, climate change, conflict, and Covid are compounding with the fallout from the assault on Ukraine to push more people into catastrophe. As we continue speaking truth to power in the international community, **families in places like Ethiopia and Somalia now face the worst drought in 40 years**, and they need our help more than ever. **Please never forget.**

Source:
¹ For more on the countries in Africa where you help Trócaire to work, visit: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/where-we-work/>

we can help both ourselves and the community." These last months the future has changed for so many in places like Ethiopia. But for amazing humans like Dhaki and her friends, we cannot – *we must not* – give up. **Thank you for believing.** ♥

Photo: Barnaby Jaco Skinner/Trócaire

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

It's been over two months since Russia launched its shocking attack on Ukraine. Two months from now the terrible crisis will no doubt have changed again. But on this day, through our sister organisations Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland, your love is a hand of compassion for refugees – and you are forever part of their stories...

From your heart to his hands

When Andrej (30), became a volunteer at the Shegyni border crossing between Ukraine and Poland, he'd said goodbye to his wife Daria there just the week before, knowing she'd be safe in Germany. It was a miracle, he says, that they made it. He admits he isn't a fighter. But as he waits to be with his wife again, Andrej helps how he can, meeting exhausted refugees at the border. From your generous heart to his kind hands, there is food and water to give them. ♥



Photos: Philipp Spalek/Caritas Germany www.trocaire.org



A family upended by war

The attack upended their family. Little Nadya (9), and Kiril (2), had to separate from their father as he returned to Kyiv to fight in the war, walking the last long kilometers to the Polish border with their grandmother, Rodina. After a three hour wait in bitter cold, they crossed the border at Dorohusk to reunite with their mother. And though the toll is etched on Rodina's face, your kind support helped ensure that food and even car seats were waiting. ♥



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A place for her babies to sleep

She remembers her family threw themselves on the ground to survive when rockets hissed overhead in Mykolaiv. Like so many in Ukraine, her husband Sergey stayed behind as Viktoria clutched her daughter Sonya (1), and son Daniel (4), and raced to a train packed with refugees. She doesn't want to go too far from Sergey. But in Przemyśl, Poland, she and her children have a Caritas shelter to sleep in, and Viktoria can smile a bit, again. ♥

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Your love in action

You find them working at all hours. Loading and unloading vans and trucks. Passing boxes of food and supplies, fire brigade style. Moving pallets of drinking water. The staff and volunteers of Caritas Poland have been tireless in getting the humanitarian aid you make possible to hundreds of thousands of shattered refugees who have fled for their lives from Ukraine. Thank you, one and all. ♥

www.trocaire.org

Ukraine: 24 Hours in the Life of Your Compassion

Because Trócaire is part of Caritas Internationalis, your donations for Ukraine helped immediately where they were needed most. Just one day of the relief effort – multiplied by many days and nights – shows the amazing impact of your compassion...

In a single 24-hour period through Caritas Ukraine, thanks to you:

- 19,050** people were assisted
- 3,281** people were given safe shelter through the centres
- 18,448** people were provided with food and food packages
- 8,074** lifesaving medication packages were provided
- 1,000** cold, weary people were given warm clothes and shoes

Thank you for your compassion! ♥ 4



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