



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Sewa International

Service to Humanity is Service to the Divine

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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## Sewa International Helps Over 3,200 Evacuate Ukraine, Many Others Wait Their Turn

**SEWA IN ACTION**  
#SEWAFORUKRAINE

 HELPLINE ASSISTANCE 5200+	 EVACUATION IN PROGRESS 9000+	 FOOD KITS DISTRIBUTED 1500+
 VOLUNTEERS 250+	 CITIES CONNECTED 18+	

SEWA EUROPE [sewausa](https://www.facebook.com/sewausa)

[linktr.ee/sewaeeurope](https://linktr.ee/sewaeeurope)

**Sewa International Europe's initiatives under the Global Sewa Movement to help the stranded in Ukraine**

Houston, TX (March 02, 2022): As airstrikes cause extensive damage and people flee Ukraine in large numbers, Sewa International volunteers in Europe have helped more than 3,200 individuals in the past six days to cross the border to reach safety. Sewa volunteers are working with another 3,680 people who have registered for evacuation through the Sewa helpline.

Over 250 Sewa volunteers spread across many countries in Europe are coordinating relief efforts in eighteen Ukrainian cities. Working closely with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) volunteers, Sewa units in Ukraine, Finland, Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Denmark are fielding calls from stranded students and others seeking help and directing them to a volunteer who lives close to them for further assistance.

“The situation on the ground is as challenging as it can get. Sewa and HSS volunteers are taking calls from people in distress and working 24 x 7 to help them evacuate. More than 35 Sewa volunteers are working on the ground in Ukraine. We are seeing an increased call volume as the war intensifies,” a Sewa volunteer from Ukraine, deeply involved in coordinating the relief work, explained over a WhatsApp call.

Sewa is helping people to reach Ukraine’s western border by bus, train, or other modes of transport. They are distributing food packets, establishing temporary shelters, or working with local hotel owners to provide fleeing students a place to stay until they leave for their home country.



**A bus arranged by Sewa Europe for students from India to travel to the western border of Ukraine**

### Heightened Fear

“After a student from India was killed in shelling in Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine and an epicenter of the current war, there has been a heightened fear among students. Due to the danger posed by the war to civilian lives in the city, helping people leave Kharkiv has been our

top priority. In nearly 80 percent of the situations, we have been able to help the caller when they call the Sewa help number for the first time,” Heramb Kulkarni, a Sewa volunteer from Finland said.

As per reports, about 9,400 students from India are in Ukraine and seeking help to leave the country. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, over 660,000 people, mostly women and children, have left Ukraine within five days of the beginning of the war. Students stranded in Ukraine are facing multiple challenges, including threat to their lives, non-cooperation from local officials, not being allowed to cross the Ukrainian border, lack of food, and money.



International students in a bus, pictured in an unidentified place, and gathered near one of the border posts

To register for assistance, Sewa is asking people to complete an online form at -- <https://bit.ly/SewaUkraineHelpline>. More information related to Sewa’s Ukraine relief efforts can be accessed at <https://linktr.ee/sewaeurope>, <https://www.facebook.com/SewaEuropeOfficial>, or <https://www.instagram.com/sewaeurope/sites>.

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### About Sewa International

Sewa International ([www.sewausa.org](http://www.sewausa.org)) is a 501 (c)(3) Hindu faith-based charitable nonprofit that works in the areas of disaster recovery, education, and development. Sewa has 43 Chapters across the USA and serves regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin.