

About BEARR

The BEARR Trust is a UK-based, English registered charity, founded in 1991 to help improve the health and social welfare of vulnerable people in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Molodova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

We support voluntary groups and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the region that work with children, women and girls, people with physical and mental disabilities, and people who are marginalised because of their age, health, gender, sexual orientation, economic position or even geographical location. BEARR also helps small health and social welfare organisations to share knowledge, skills and contacts. BEARR is the only UK-based charity working in this region that combines grant-giving and networking services.

Our Work



Small Grants Scheme

Each year BEARR awards small grants to encourage CSOs in the region to try out new approaches to health and welfare issues. In recent years, BEARR has supported projects in aid of: the employability of young people with disabilities; people with mental health issues; vulnerable older people; skills training for refugees and IDPs; and tackling violence against women and girls. Since 2006 we have supported over 120 projects and disbursed over £300,000 in grants to the region.

Information Services

BEARR publishes a bi-monthly email newsletter which features project reports from our grantees as well as news of wider developments in health and social welfare, and in civil society, from the region. BEARR's website (bearth.org), in English and Russian, is an important platform for information and networking. It is also an ever-growing research resource on health and welfare in the region. We also share news on our social media channels - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Conferences

For 30 years BEARR's annual conferences in London have helped CSOs from the region and other countries to make and maintain contacts and to share experiences. Recent annual conference themes have coincided with those of the grants scheme, from disability and inclusion to the development of health and welfare CSOs in the region. We held our first regional conference in Lviv, Ukraine in 2016 on the theme of issues facing internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2016, and the second in April 2019 in Chisinau, Moldova, on the theme of migration and social change. Since the pandemic, BEARR has held online webinars on a range of topics.

Annual Lectures

BEARR's annual fundraising events attract eminent speakers on various topics of general interest. Recent speakers include journalists Shaun Walker, Arkady Ostrovsky, Bridget Kendall, Edward Lucas, and trauma surgeon David Nott.

BEARR's Emergency Ukraine Appeal

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 we extended our activities to providing emergency support to CSOs helping refugees or people in danger in Ukraine and Moldova. As of November 2022, we have raised over £350,000 and disbursed more than £300,000 to 60 voluntary organisations and CSOs in Ukraine and Moldova. These organisations have been able to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies, medical supplies and transport more quickly than some of the large international aid organisations, and sometimes in places that the latter find hard to reach, as well as providing psychological support or helping internally displaced people to settle in new homes in safer parts of Ukraine.

Find out more about BEARR's Ukraine Emergency Winter Appeal to support our local partners [here](#).

Annual Conference 2022
War in Ukraine: The Civil Society Response

First Panel – Lessons Learned
Moderated by Michael Rasell, BEARR Trustee

Olga Donets has been the Director of **Donetsk Youth Debate Centre** since 2018, an organisation she first joined as a volunteer in 2001. She lived in Donetsk until the Russian occupation in 2014, and now resides in Kyiv.

Olga has extensive experience in the field of youth work and the protection of children's rights, having worked on social projects at the local, regional and international levels. At the outbreak of the war, Olga realized that youth work can help IDPs solve many challenges. Together with their partners and volunteers, they have helped IDPs all over Ukraine – providing humanitarian and psychological assistance, and helping them integrate into new communities. Olga strongly believes in the power of youth work and young people of Ukraine.

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Olga Donets
Organisation name	Donetsk Youth Debate Centre
Organisation location	Kyiv, Ukraine
Organisation start date	19 December 1997
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	3 permanent employees and more than 20 volunteers throughout Ukraine
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Children and youth, school teachers, youth organisations, internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	At the beginning of a full-scale invasion, the organisation began actively helping internally displaced persons (IDPs). We were engaged in evacuating people, placing them in temporary cities of residence, and providing humanitarian aid. Later, we began to provide psychological assistance to children, young people and their parents, as well as to integrate IDPs into the communities that receive them.
Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?	A new target audience of temporarily displaced persons has appeared. Humanitarian aid and psychological support of displaced persons were also added.
How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i>	More than 4,000 IDPs have received help and support from the organisation. This is humanitarian aid, psychological aid, educational and youth activities.
What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i>	<p>We have received grants from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations Development Program, for our mobile youth work and to provide psychological assistance to children and youth for their integration into host communities. • American partners, to organise youth work in communities and offer psychological assistance such as art therapy, as well as humanitarian assistance. • The Danish Refugee Council to equip a shelter for temporarily displaced persons in Novy Sanzhary, Poltava region. • Street Child for a joint project titled "Education in crisis situations".. We established 5 educational hubs to provide educational services to children in wartime conditions. • European Youth Foundation for the project "Voices of young people in Ukraine" • US embassy in Ukraine for the project "Conflict prevention and resolution for youth", • The BEARR Trust for the distribution of humanitarian aid.

Marat Abdullaiev is the founder and director of **Youth Charitable Foundation "NEXT"**.

A graduate of the Odesa National Law Academy, in 2011 Marat served in the armed forces, before joining the Odesa National Police. From 2014-2020 he worked in various roles, including as Detective Officer in the Criminal Investigation Department.

While completing his PhD in Law at Odesa State University, Marat set up the initiative group NEXT to support young people from vulnerable groups and minority communities. In 2020, Marat registered NEXT as a charitable foundation, and in 2021 received a grant from BEARR for their project "Hospital is not a prison", providing psychological care and art therapy sessions for children at the Odesa Regional Children's Psychiatric Hospital.

At the outbreak of war, Marat rapidly expanded NEXT's activity to set up a humanitarian aid centre, distributing food, medicine and clothes to vulnerable groups in Odesa.

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Marat Abdullaiev
Organisation name	YCF NEXT
Organisation location	Odesa, Ukraine
Organisation start date	October 2020
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	8 staff, 20 volunteers
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Internally displaced persons (IDPs) Single women with children Isolated elderly people Young people

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	Evacuation of women with children Psychological help Legal assistance Distribution of food, personal care products, medicines Clothing for children and adults
Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?	Yes. At the moment, priority assistance is the provision of food, medicines and personal hygiene products.
How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i>	More than 6000 thousand people have received assistance
What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i>	The BEARR Trust .

Tamara Ababii is the Chairman of **The League of Polish Women in Moldova**, a position she has held since 2019.

Alongside her work with The League of Polish Women, she is also the Administrator for the Playback Theatre, responsible for overseeing their projects from inception to implementation.

A graduate of the Faculty of Law at T.G. Shevchenko Pridnestrovian State and Corporate University, Tamara worked in Cyprus for half a year, before joining the Moldovan Ministry of Defence in 1996 and the Charity Association in 1991. Since 2017 she has held various roles, including as manager of "Argos" Children's Camp.

Tamara is active in the fields of community development, supporting the vulnerable and educating children and expanding their horizons. She speaks 4 languages, and is a vocal advocate for the promotion of intercultural relations, something that has come into sharp focus with her work supporting the integration of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova.

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Tamara Ababii
Organisation name	The League of Polish Women in Moldova
Organisation location	Chisinau, Moldova
Organisation start date	26 May 1998
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	3 members of staff, 15 volunteers
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Women, youth, Ukrainian citizens in Moldova (refugees)

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	<p>Before the war we were working in the form of Playback Theatre, to give support to women who have experienced domestic violence. It was a natural shift to then use similar methodology to offer psychological assistance to both Ukrainian refugees and to the volunteers working flat out to support the initial influx. We created an anti-burnout memo as well as hosted sessions run by a professional psychologist.</p> <p>Initially, like many other groups and individuals, we collected basic necessities for refugees among friends and colleagues and provided targeted assistance to several families, particularly those with disabled children, for whom we bought food and clothes and provided information on how to find the best places to shop etc. in Chisinau.</p>

	<p>Looking particularly at the needs of the child refugees, at Easter we held a creative master class at the refugee accommodation for both mothers and children. In June we organised an excursion for 50+ children under the age of 14 to relax and get to know the country of Moldova. While in the countryside we organised outdoor tourist competitions.</p> <p>We also began an initiative to help some of the refugee women into professional work with a training course for Ukrainian accountants to teach them how to work within the framework of the Moldovan charter of accountants and legislation. Six out of nine people reached the end of the course, two of them found work in this profession immediately.</p>
Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?	At present, we have suspended assistance to Ukrainian refugees. Due to a reduction of funding, and in light of the fact that experts predict the largest and most destitute flow of refugees from mid-November, we want to save resources in order to be as useful as possible at this time.
How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i>	About 200
What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i>	<p>The BEARR Trust</p> <p>Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie (Support for Poles in the East) paid for decorative materials for creative master class</p> <p>.</p>

Annual Conference 2022

War in Ukraine: The Civil Society Response

Second Panel – The Near to Medium Future

Moderated by Janet Gunn, BEARR Trustee

Daria Gerasymchuk is a Ukrainian public and political activist, and has been **The President's Advisor on Child Rights and Child Rehabilitation** since 15 June 2021.

Her education is a multi-subject teacher. She received her education at the Rzhyschchiv Humanitarian College, and then at the Hryhorii Skovoroda Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi State Pedagogical University.

She worked in rural schools for 9 years and held her first lesson for children at the age of 18.

Daria is the mother of a hearing-impaired child. Since 2013 Daria has been the permanent Executive Director and Leader of the public organisation "Vidchui" (Feel), which supports hearing-impaired children and their families.

Daria is a facilitator of the Active Citizens British Council program. She is a co-founder, Methodologist and Senior Trainer of the Inclusive Friendly project and the author and teacher of more than 10 training and education courses on the topics of: effective communications; advocacy; NGO activities and management of their activities; fundraising and project management; tolerant attitude and ethics; communication with people with disabilities.

Daria's life credo: "Investment in children - development of the future."

The main directions of Daria's work in the position of The President's Advisor on Child Rights and Child Rehabilitation are: the spread of guardianship and adoption; prevention of children entering to institutional facilities; development and implementation of Early Intervention; high-quality rehabilitation and education of children with disabilities, special educational needs and those who suffered from Russian aggression; assistance to families in difficult life circumstances.

Now, Daria is the co-chairman (together with the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine) of the Coordinating Council on the Protection of Children's Rights in Martial Law, a temporary advisory body of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which was formed to facilitate the coordination of the activities of official central and local bodies, other state bodies, local self-government bodies on the protection of children's rights under martial law.

Daria is also the secretary of the Coordinating Council for the Protection and Safety of Children under the President of Ukraine.

Anna Bondarenko is founder and chief executive officer of **Ukrainian Volunteer Service**. She is an author of the national telephone befriending initiative My Phone Friend and the youth empowerment program Agents of Volunteering. Anna teaches volunteer management at the state educational program Youth Worker and at the Ukrainian Catholic University, in the only master's program to specialise in non-profit management in Ukraine.

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Anna Bondarenko
Organisation name	Ukrainian Volunteer Service
Organisation location	Odesa, Ukraine
Organisation start date	23 August 2017
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	17 staff members Over 100,000 volunteers
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Volunteers and volunteer organisations Elderly people from the frontline territories Ukrainians from the temporarily occupied territories

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations to people on the Volunteer Hotline • Helping other volunteer organisations and foundations find volunteers and fill needs • Supporting local coordinators and volunteers of UVS • Delivering products and medicines for the elderly • Coordinating community of car volunteers in Kyiv • Sharing educational materials on effective and safe volunteering.

Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?	In June, Ukrainian Volunteer Service launched a new project in order to strengthen volunteers in occupied territories. In terms of the project, we provide volunteers that help in the temporarily occupied cities with financial support and consultations in different areas. We have also stopped coordination of car volunteers in Kyiv as the situation changed and there are not as many requests for help with transportation.
How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,800 people from the temporarily occupied territories • 1,738 elderly people • 500 deaf people • 31,000 consultations for civilians • 5,200 consultations for NGOs
What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i>	<p>Grants from: United Nations Children's Fund; National Endowment for Democracy; United Nations Development Programme; Ukrainian Confidence Building Initiative; USAID; International Renaissance Foundation</p> <p>Crowdfunding: Patreon; Donations to help the elderly; Donations to help the occupied territories</p>

Irina Georgievna Los is a lawyer and head of the structural division of **PO NCSSPR "Open Doors"**

Irina has been working in the field of protecting the rights of vulnerable populations for 17 years. She is a coordinator of more than 50 international projects.

Irina is also a monitor of the National Preventive Mechanism against torture and ill-treatment in Ukraine. Since 2013 she has conducted monitoring visits to various places of detention (psychoneurological dispensaries, boarding schools, hospitals, prisons, police stations, etc.).

Irina cooperates with many public organizations, representatives of local authorities, deputies and leaders of religious communities to ensure the proper protection of people's rights in Ukraine. She is the co-author of analytical reports on human rights, prepared within the framework of the OSCE/ODIHR program.

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Irina Georgievna Los
Organisation name	Nikopol Centre of Spiritual and Social-Psychological Rehabilitation "Open Doors" (NCSSPR "Open Doors")
Organisation location	Nikopol, Ukraine
Organisation start date	17 November 2005
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	8 people
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Unprotected segments of the population: internally displaced persons (IDPs), people with disabilities, women who suffer from violence, victims of torture, the elderly, etc.

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	<p>Since the very beginning of the war, Open Doors has been supporting the citizens of Nikopol, as well as IDPs who have arrived in the region, with basic needs such as accommodation, food, baby food, and personal supplies. Aside from this, we have been providing legal and psychological assistance. Our beneficiaries cannot stop reading the news, as the security of their families depends on it, and the feeling of alarm, fear and depression during the war are unavoidable.</p> <p>The legal advice we have provided concerns issues such as: the military situation and curfew restriction; people who are and are not subjected to military mobilization; the registration of IDPs; children going abroad; adopting children-orphans; termination of employment during the war; payment for utilities; consumer credits etc.</p>

<p>Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?</p>	<p>The main challenges we have faced during the war are of security and social-economical challenges. The public organisation is made up of people first and foremost, and the activity of the organisation depends on their physical and psychological safety.</p> <p>Since the beginning the war, we have faced issues of personal safety as well as the safety of family members of our staff. In spite of these challenges, our team continues to implement humanitarian projects for the population of Ukraine, as well as the psychological support and legal assistance projects that we have always conducted. Because of the war, the projects that were started before the war stopped and became out of date. Our current projects are focused on offering humanitarian aid, legal assistance, psychological assistance, and transport to evacuate people to the safer regions of Ukraine and abroad.</p>
<p>How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i></p>	<p>Since the beginning of the war, we have helped more than 6,350 people from Nikopol, Mariupol, Kharkiv, and Kherson. We have evacuated them from areas of active war to safer regions of Ukraine, and provided humanitarian aid (personal supplies, food, baby napkins, and baby food). Now, we are supporting people in Nikopol and the Nikopol region, as they have been under constant shellfire since July, 12, 2022.</p>
<p>What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i></p>	<p>Since the beginning of the war, we have received support from The BEARR Trust, the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative and The Embassy of USA in Ukraine.</p>

Liliana Rotaru is the President and founder of **CCF Moldova - children, communities, families**, an organisation she set up in 2004.

As the leader of the organisation, she formed and supported a strong team that, together with public authorities in social and educational fields, implemented the reform of the child protection system, the promotion of inclusive education, the development of integrated services, policy development, amongst other things. Since 2005 CCF Moldova represents Hope and Homes for Children UK.

The organisation's values – excellence, courage, integrity – guide its relationships with people outside the professional environment. The hope for a better life for all children in Moldova is what motivates and encourages us to continue our work. Liliana was the board president of the Child Rights NGO Alliance (APSCF) (2017-2021), a regional representative (Europe and the CIS countries) to the organisation AFLATOUN Child Savings International (Netherlands) (2013-2019), and is currently a member of the board of the organisations Step by Step (Moldova) and KidsFirst (USA).

Panel member information	
Panel member name	Liliana Rotaru
Organisation name	CCF Moldova – children, communities, families
Organisation location	Moldova
Organisation start date	2004
Organisation size (no. of staff and volunteers)	Around 90 people
Beneficiaries of the organisation's work	Children at risk of separation and exclusion and their families;

Activity during the war	
What assistance did you provide at the beginning of the war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since the beginning of war CCF Moldova operates a Blue Dot service hub on the Northern border with Ukraine; 2. We support refugee families living in communities through top up protection food vouchers and other material support and information provision 3. We support refugees in 16 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) with counselling for caregivers, informative sessions, free play corner for children and structured activities for children (TeamUp and music therapy (in 6 RACs)
Has your activity changed since then? If so, how?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since summer we have added an assistance programme to local communities in order to increase resilience of the most vulnerable populations 2. We provide food vouchers to local communities, based on a set of criteria 3. We provide vouchers to foster carers and family type homes parents-educators to address the price increase for food and bills
How many people have you assisted during the war? <i>Estimated number of direct beneficiaries.</i>	As of 30 September 2022, we have supported over 9400 unique beneficiaries since the war started.
What funding have you received to support your work? <i>Please list your sources of funding.</i>	<p>Est. budget for 2022: 1 020 300 euro</p> <p>Hope and Homes for Children UNICEF Caritas Austria War Child Holland World Childhood Foundation Soros Moldova Foundation We World Plan International Corporate donors Individuals</p>