MEMORANDUM: Bosnia & Herzegovina Refugee Crisis Appeal

Dear Friends,

As it is possible to read in newspapers and on various web portals, the number of refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina is rising. Judging by the comments on social media, it appears that Bosnian institutions have once again failed to do what needs to be done. They seem to be completely indifferent towards refugees who are living in open spaces near the river Miljacka, or (some who have been luckier) in abandoned buildings in Ilida and Hrasnica. They are staying there without food or clothes, left to themselves, and some good people and activists who are bringing food and clothes when they can.

It is important to note that there are several humanitarian organizations working in B&H, among which the largest is the Islamic community (Merhamet) – all of them appear to be indifferent to the suffering of refugees in their midst. The Evangelical community in Bosnia consists of 500 people, is ready to offer help to the refugees within their possibilities.

Dear friends, this is a call to all of you who want to join in and make a difference in this country. Your voice, your donation, your time are of essence to the refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for the Evangelical community, our brothers and sisters, and their encouragement in these times.

This is an appeal towards everyone – are you able and willing to make a small contribution towards this cause? We want to encourage those who are suffering and show that the core of Jesus testimony is serving the least of these.

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Based on the knowledge of work with refugees and knowledge of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian Baptist Aid is forming a platform **Hands of Hope Sarajevo** for providing help to refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If you want to be part of this platform, let us know at info@cbaid.org. For all of you who want to help, the platform Hands of Hope Sarajevo will be providing help directly in the field, alongside local churches.

Croatian Baptist Aid is currently doing an assessment of the situation in Bosnia, which will be available to everyone who wants to get involved with the goal of helping refugees, supporting local churches and being a testimony to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The platform **Hands of Hope Sarajevo** has the goal of establishing communication, reporting on the situation, organizing volunteer activities, liaising with the governing bodies and advocating for refugees and their rights. Trainings will be provided according to SPHERE standards, as well as all necessary information.
Ways to support our Refugees in Sarajevo:

If you feel and understand the importance of being engaged in these issues, and you also believe that together we can do so much more, you can help us by donating, by fundraising for us, by partnering with us, by volunteering with us — all with the purpose of creating a better future for refugees.

You can give your donations in the following way:

Account name: RUKE NADE
(this is Croatian registered name for Hands of Hope)

Address: Radiceva 30, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
Bank name: Privredna banka Zagreb
Bank address: Radnicka cesta 50, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
Bank account / IBAN HR 3823 4000 9111 0817 743
SWIFT ID Code: PBZGHR2X

Only together can we move forward.

_Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up._

_Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?_

_Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken._ (Eccl. 4:9-12)