

## EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION POLICY PLAN FOR MOLDOVA

### Introduction

Our top priority is the welfare of staff and volunteers and we will do everything we can to keep people safe. This policy is to minimise risk and prepare for possible emergencies.

We operate in safe environments, but volunteering in an emergency or crisis situation involves a certain degree of risk and personal perils to the volunteer, both foreseen and unforeseen.

Volunteers need to acknowledge and accept the responsibilities and risks associated with their travel and volunteering. If they feel that the risk is too much for them they are of course free to leave at any time.

### Centre Preparation

Dignity Centre should be equipped with:

- Food and water supplies for three days for up to 8 people (supplies are only to be used in emergency situations)
- A comprehensive first-aid kit plus one other first aid kit for travel

For last minute closure

- Remove laptop and tablets
- If removal is not possible, destroy laptop hard drive

### Volunteer Preparation

Volunteer house should be equipped with:

- Food and water supplies for three days for up to 8 people (supplies are only to be used in emergency situations)
- A comprehensive first-aid kit plus one other first aid kit for travel

Volunteers should ensure that they

- Register with their Embassy in Moldova
- Are fully engaged with our WhatsApp communication channel
- Download and install Briar (that allows messaging without mobile network/ internet)
- Can always access their passports
- Have a reserve of cash (at least £100)
- Ensure a copy of their passport has been sent to the Charity
- Personal belongings are in a state that they can be quickly packed
- Have sufficient medication (for existing conditions) in their packs for the length of placement
- Phones are regularly topped up

### The Moldova situation

We are carefully monitoring the situation in Moldova, Transnistria and Ukraine using a range of independent news sources.

In the event that the UK govt changes its advice to 'advise against all travel', RS will

- Advise all new volunteers not to travel to Moldova
- Notify existing volunteers in Moldova of the change of status at the earliest opportunity via email and the local WhatsApp group

Volunteers should expect to leave Moldova immediately in the event of:

- Likely invasion by Russian troops
- Acute incidence of terrorism or civil unrest - actual or predicted
- Notification of the withdrawal of the dependents/family of embassy staff

It is our current assessment that we will get days of warning before any of these take place so if evacuation is necessary, it will be orderly.

### Declaring an emergency

Following any increase in risk, the Chief Executive, Trustees and Coordinator will decide whether to declare an emergency.

The Charity will then recommend a course of action for volunteers already in Moldova, based on the UK govt advice and local information sources. Any recommendations are just that and any volunteer is free to make their own choice, while advising the RS Coordinator of their decision.

The Charity will notify the next of kin of all volunteers of the emergency declaration and plans.

### Secure meeting place

In the event of a security emergency, all volunteers will remain in their present location (house or hotel or Centre) unless the security situation dictates otherwise. Should a relocation be needed to a secure site, the Coordinator will direct volunteers to the secure meeting places.

### Evacuation

If evacuation is recommended:

- All volunteers should leave the country in the first instance by public transport, as soon as the Coordinator assesses that it is safe to do so
- Volunteers should make every effort to travel in country with a colleague (ie not alone)
- The Charity will organise a bus or taxis to drive people to a safe location in Romania if public transport is not viable

### Key Contacts

Name	Role	WhatsApp	Email
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