If you can afford to, the most effective way to contribute is financially, allowing organisations on the ground in the region to best spend the money. Here are some of the charities and organisations which have launched appeals:

The **Disasters Emergency Committee** has launched an appeal to help families fleeing the conflict, providing food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection. The Government today pledged to match every pound donated, starting with an initial sum of £20m Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee (dec.org.uk)

Save The Children is working quickly to assess what support children and families need and are ready to provide life-saving aid https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/europe/ukraine

The International Committee of the Red Cross - together with its partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – is active in Ukraine https://www.icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine-0

The **British Red Cross** and its international fraternal organisations are helping provide essential food, water, medicines, warm clothes and shelter https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal

The **Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain** are working with accredited and registered Ukrainian charities to provide medicines, food and critical services to support the most vulnerable to overcome the consequences and trauma of war https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpukraine?qid=546c25e9bfc9c469b7f7a57691d3d7c4

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The **Embassy of Ukraine in the UK** has set up a special global support fund https://www.withukraine.org/

We've announced that the Civic Centre will be lit blue and yellow at night (see below) for the foreseeable future in solidarity with Ukraine, while the council will fly the Ukrainian flag alongside the British flag from this weekend.

We have also announced that we're seeking to cancel a £1m gas supply contract with Russian supplier Gazprom and will be reviewing our pension fund's exposure to Russian-based investments.