



NP and partners at a first responder training, Ukraine. May 2023. ©NP

## Hope, Even on the Frontline



There is hope for safety in what can seem like the most impossible of contexts, even the frontlines of the war in Ukraine.

In October we received a call that a family – a mother, a father, and two children – were being evacuated. They lived on the river, right near the frontlines in Kherson Oblast. They had lived all 22 months of the war in their home. Humanitarian aid rarely reaches this area and there has been no electricity for months. But now the shelling was so intense that the police had come to their house for a mandatory evacuation.

After carrying the children and rushing the family out of the home, under active shelling, the police brought the family to Kherson. But there was no one to pick them up and no one was answering their phone. The family almost had to sleep outside that night. They didn't even have money to get water for their children.

One of the local Ukrainian volunteer collectives in Kherson that partners with Nonviolent Peaceforce

learned about the family and immediately mobilized.

The volunteers called NP and asked if the family could stay in our safe accommodations. The family was moved to NP's basement location in Kherson which we keep supplied with hibernation kits and food.



**If it wasn't for NP, this family would have gone through a lot of trouble and struggle on their own.**



The following day, the volunteers accompanied the family on to Odesa, an even safer location, where NP staff met the family.

By this time, the mother of the family had fallen extremely sick. She had a high fever and a serious infection, in part because of the length of time the family had spent in very difficult conditions without access to clean water and proper protection.

# Resiliency Amidst War in Sudan

The world once mobilized in an attempt to “Save Darfur,” launching the largest global social movement since the end of South African apartheid. ... Let us build this movement again. Let us join together in a call to protect the people of Darfur and demand an end to this cruel conflict.

In our culture, we often use songs to mobilize people around issues of social justice. An Arabic-language song I often sing is called Our Hands Boy, Our Hands for Our Country. The message of the song is simple: It is our hands that will save our country and lead us to a promising future.

We can do the job ourselves, the song says. All we ask is for your help at this moment of need.

*Excerpted from Sara Mohammed Sulaiman in The Continent. Read the full essay on our website.*



NP staff had to convince the mother to go to the hospital, as she refused to be away from her children.

After some convincing, NP staff accompanied her to the hospital. Today she is getting better due to surgery and the family is safe. We have referred the family to another local Ukrainian organization that can support them with the ongoing needs they have because of their relocation.

One of NP's protection officers shared, **“Thank you everyone for your support again, it turned out if it wasn't for NP this family would have gone through a lot of trouble and struggle on their own. Thanks to our involvement and especially the safe room they survived through these days.”**

This kind of response is emblematic of the way Nonviolent Peaceforce is working in Ukraine.

Through our partners – **77 volunteer collectives** in total – we have been able to provide:

- **600** personal protection equipment sets (flax jackets, helmets) through our PPE lending program
- Fuel, vehicle maintenance, and stipends for over **4,000** volunteers who deliver aid with their own personal cars and resources
- First aid training and trauma kits
- Psychological first aid trainings
- Safe accommodation

Through our relationship with and support of volunteer collectives, we have reached over **227,000 civilians** and covered **40% of the frontline**.

When you contribute to NP this is what you contribute to. You are directly keeping civilians safe, those who are living in hard-to-reach and highly impacted communities in Ukraine. And you are supporting the safety, security, and well-being of the volunteers and local organizations putting their lives at risk to protect civilians.



# Community in the Face of Hate



IN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND TENSIONS, VIOLENCE OFTEN SPILLS OVER TO COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S.

**“We are now witnessing a surge in hate violence targeting Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Palestinian, and Jewish communities in the U.S. in the wake of the escalating conflict in the Middle East,”** our partner, the Asian American Federation, shared in a statement we co-signed. “These incidents are a stark reminder of the persistent prejudice and bigotry that exist in our society.”

As a part of our response, NP is accompanying groups at actions, training community organizations, and sharing tips online about how to stay safe—from walking home to demonstrating in the streets.

One recent training was for a group of 15 Muslim teenagers\*. Before the workshop, when asked if they had faced violence, every single one raised their hand. Each one had encountered hate crimes, including Islamophobia. We took them through simulation exercises and they worked in groups to find creative ways to identify and deal with threats through nonviolent means.

“There was a time I personally faced Islamophobia, but didn’t know if there was something I could do,” said one of the teenagers after the training. **“Now I know that I have to stand up to people who act like that to me. Now I know that I have people who will support me.”**

At another training\*\*, one mother hadn’t sent her child to school in weeks, fearing she would be targeted for wearing a hijab. Jewish and Muslim families (as well as others perceived to be Muslim, like Sikhs wearing turbans) have had similar concerns over wearing visible religious symbols. After the training with NP, the mother shared **“Now I feel comfortable sending my child to school.”**

We counter hate by connecting with each other and with community. We counter hate by sharing tools to stay safe. Together, we not only defy intolerance but also build a foundation of understanding, acceptance, and shared security for all.

\*Muslim Community Network (MCN)

\*\*Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)



**I really enjoyed the training, that it was informative and skillful for young people. I gained a sense of awareness. I learned how to stay grounded. Lots of young people and adults should be exposed to these kinds of training.**

- Fatiman



# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Sally Davis & Steve Birdleough

**Meet Sally Davis & Steve Birdleough.** Guided by their Quaker values, Sally and Steve have worked to make the world a greener, more peaceful place – from advocating for the right of handicapped children to access education in Slovakia to working to make walkable communities the norm and reduce carbon emissions.

Inspired by our grassroots approach to peacebuilding, Sally and Steve have supported NP's work of protection and nonviolence since 2004. **"The strength of NP depends on person-to-person engagements that lead to creative problem-solving and community building.** It's important for peace-making to grow within every community."

**Join Sally and Steve to align your values with action by supporting a nonviolent future.**

**"Our values as Quakers spring from our understanding that every person deserves an opportunity to develop their talents, contribute to the community, and have a voice in shaping our future."**

## All the ways to make an impact!

Visit [NonviolentPeaceforce.org/Make-A-Gift](https://NonviolentPeaceforce.org/Make-A-Gift)



### Make a planned gift

Leave your legacy of peace through a bequest, charitable IRA rollover, or even designating a portion of your retirement.



### Donate with stocks

Giving stock is one of the most tax beneficial gifts you can give to NP.



### Give with crypto

Through the Giving Block, you can donate your cryptocurrency to NP with ease.

For more information on ways to give, go to [NonviolentPeaceforce.org](https://NonviolentPeaceforce.org) or call 612-871-0005.