



Barcelona, March 21st 2022

Reference: cancellation ASSEDIL Congress in Gdansk (Poland) April 20th to 23rd 2022

Dear participants

Dear representatives of the Lasallian mission in RELEM

The daily information about the war situation in Ukraine and the hundreds of thousands of refugees affects us deeply. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and, where possible, we offer help and support. Our hope is that this devastation will cease as soon as possible and that the people of Ukraine can live in peace.

The escalation of the conflict and its unpredictable nature, clearly impacts on the organisation of the Congress that we've planned from April 20th to 23rd in Gdańsk. A significant number of participants have expressed their deep concerns about the situation and about holding of the Congress.

Accordingly, on Saturday March 19th, the ASSEDIL Council met to discuss this situation. After lengthy discussions on holding the Congress in current circumstances, the Council reluctantly decided to cancel the Congress. Obviously, the ASSEDIL Council greatly regrets this difficult decision and hopes for your understanding.

Unfortunately, the time is too short to prepare a proper alternative for the Congress online. Instead, the Council intends to hold an **online moment of solidarity, prayer and support for victims, aid workers and volunteers on Wednesday, April 20th at 4 pm (Rome time).**

As we write this letter to you, negotiations with the hotel and other service providers have started and we will keep you informed about possibilities for next year. Regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, we propose to refund participant's contributions.

As we've heard from our local contact in Poland and from heads / principals in our Districts, numerous heartwarming actions are being undertaken to accommodate Ukrainian refugees and provide education for their children, to raise funds and express solidarity to the affected areas. We hope that the cancellation of the Congress may offer time and space to strengthen our Lasallian solidarity with the people of Ukraine and with those who are so generously supporting them in surrounding countries.

We kindly ask you to acknowledge receipt of this cancellation and to ensure that the ASSEDIL Delegates from your District are fully informed. We remain available to you for further explanation or questions.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marta Martínez Casanovas".

Mrs. Marta Martínez Casanovas
president of ASSEDIL

ASSEDIL

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