



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**"HOPE worldwide" TO SPEAK AT
THE HIGHWAY LIBERTY HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2016**

Toronto, January 06, 2016 –HOPE *worldwide* will speak at the Highway Liberty Human Rights Conference 2016 ["UKRAINE'S UNNOTICED HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: IMPACT AND SOLUTIONS"](#), to be held January 16 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Toronto (181 Wellington St W, Toronto, ON M5V 3G7).

Charles Ham, Global Disaster Response Coordinator of HOPE *worldwide* and Taras Kulish, International Relations Officer of HOPE *worldwide* of Canada will speak about the "Helping Hand for Ukraine" project and the organization's response in Canada, USA and Ukraine to the humanitarian crises in Ukraine and the needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) for psychological and humanitarian assistance.

Among other speakers and presenters: Liudmyla Davydovych, Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto; Michael Bociurkiw, a spokesperson for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Lyudmyla Deshko, Vice-Dean for International Relations of Law Faculty at the Donetsk National University; and Yaroslav Dimnych, Humanitarian Affairs Officer and Regional Coordinator at the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil regions.

Come meet with Taras Kulish (taras.kulich@hopewwcanada.org), Charles Ham (Charles_Ham@hopeww.org) and other distinguished participants of the Conference on Saturday, January 16, to discuss the humanitarian crises in Ukraine and Canada's role in tackling the issue and helping people in need.

The entire ticket sales for the Conference will be collected and used by HOPE *worldwide* Ukraine to deliver a psycho-social and humanitarian relief programme at the Dnipropetrovsk Refugee Centre in Ukraine.

Myroslava Stadnyk, PR Coordinator at "Highway Liberty: *"Highway Liberty is a philanthropic project, launched by a group of Canadians with the purpose of advocating for universally recognized human rights. With the 1st Highway Liberty Human Rights Conference we hope to raise awareness about the humanitarian crises in Ukraine and provide a platform for open dialogue and potential partnerships to provide direct aid to the victims of war in Eastern Ukraine. Highway Liberty is pleased to partner with HOPE worldwide of Canada which will use the charitable proceeds from the conference to conduct "Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques" trainings for psychologists and volunteers of the Dnipropetrovsk Refugee Centre in Ukraine as well as to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees in the region".*

Charles Ham, Global Disaster Response Coordinator of HOPE worldwide: *"HOPE worldwide believes that the higher mission of every man is to assist those who are in need and to change their lives for better. With this mission we started our global response programs that have helped victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises in many countries. By allocating important resources and funds to the "Helping Hand for Ukraine" project we strive to improve the living conditions and*

psychological outlook of the IDPs in Ukraine and to strengthen the chances of Ukrainian children to lead fulfilling lives”.

***Taras Kulish, volunteer International Relations Officer at “HOPE worldwide of Canada:** “The Helping Hand for Ukraine project is yet another amazing example of Canadian leadership in fruitful international cooperation between people from different countries. By participating in the 1st Highway Liberty Human Rights Conference and presenting the results in 2015 of the project and our plans for 2016, we will promote a unique program that helps children overcome the long term effects of post-traumatic stress disorders and contribute to the development of the volunteering movement and democratic transformations within Ukraine”.*

About “Helping Hand for Ukraine” Project

The Project is aimed to provide psychological assistance to internally displaced children and parents from Eastern Ukraine, to train psychologists, social workers, and volunteers to work with children, traumatized by war. The “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project will train over 300 psychologists, social workers, volunteers, and representatives of the state emergency services to work with traumatized children using the “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program and manual. Therapy sessions will help children and parents (IDPs, families of ATO soldiers) acquire skills, techniques and ability to deal with their traumatic experience. The project will also deliver humanitarian aid to IDPs from Eastern Ukraine. Phase I of the project included training the Recovery Team in Kyiv and a therapy course for children and parents at the IDP camp in Korostyshiv in May-June 2015. Phase II was implemented in September-December 2015 and included two trainings for social workers and psychologists in Cherkasy and Ivano-Frankivsk as well as therapy courses in Kyiv and Irpin.

The “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program was developed by the Center for Crisis Psychology (Bergen, Norway) and the Institute of Psychiatry (London, Great Britain). In Ukraine, the manual was translated and adapted by the experts from the Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine).

Canadian donors can donate for the project on Tilt – <http://tilt.tc/xqWa> or via the HOPE worldwide of Canada website: <http://www.hopewwc.org/2015/09/24/become-a-helping-hand-for-children-traumatized-by-war-in-eastern-ukraine-2/>

About Highway Liberty (<http://highwayliberty.com>)

Highway Liberty is a not-for-profit organization aiming to monitor the observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the local, regional, national and international levels. Highway Liberty’s priority region of interest are the post-Soviet republics. The principal mode of operation is amassing human rights-related information into a huge database and encouraging civil rights activism with regard to informing, supporting and consolidating citizens, educators, NGOs and public authorities.

The First Highway Liberty Human Rights Conference “**Ukraine’s Unnoticed Humanitarian Crisis: Impact and Solutions**” aims to be an informational outlet on the current status of internally displaced persons within Ukraine and to provide an opportunity for open dialogue or discussion of the issue. To read more, please, visit – <http://highwayliberty.com/upcoming-events/>

Conference Location: the Ritz-Carlton, Toronto – 181 Wellington St W, Toronto, ON M5V 3G7.