



Capuchin Social Theatre
Caring for life through Arts

Franciscan Social Theatre Training

Responding to Ukrainian War Trauma

Interfranciscan collaboration

The Offices of Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the General Curia of the Friars Minor Conventual and Friars Minor Capuchin, in collaboration with the Ukrainian Secular Franciscan Order, responded to the trauma generated by the war in Ukraine by asking the Capuchin Social Theatre Department to train a group of Ukrainians on how to work with trauma in the psychosocial domain through Social Theatre methodology.

What is Social Theatre?

Social Theatre is a method to help individuals to cope with various kinds of woundedness. Having experienced traumatic events, such as war, individuals as well as the community get blocked, reducing the interpretation and the meaning of their lives to the precise moment of the traumatic episode. It then becomes necessary to offer new methods of interpretation, so that they might reconsider their stories and the possibilities of their future. For over fifteen years, the Capuchin Franciscan Social Theatre Department has developed a specific methodology to effectively work in trauma response and psychosocial animation. In addition, our method has an integral approach that also considers the spiritual sphere of vulnerable people for the purpose of a truly effective care taking.

Our project

From August 2022 to February 2023 we train 6 Ukrainian actresses and 1 Ukrainian actor for about 100 hours of training.

Some results

Today our trainees have already run 11 projects on their own.

- In Poland workshops were held for blind and visually impaired Ukrainians as well as for children, including some with autism. Another workshop assisted adults who came to remember that dialogue is better than conflict in everyday life.
- Workshops in several Ukrainian cities are being held for school children in classrooms or in the basement of the school when the air sirens sound. While life was made a little brighter through workshops held in eastern Ukraine, including one Christmas pageant in Kharkiv.
- Special attention was given to both women and children who have been forced to flee the east and resettle elsewhere within Ukraine. Their social theatre workshops include public speaking lessons for women from Russian speaking parts of Ukraine, while children benefit from workshops that incorporate field trips to local cultural museums.
- These programs are having a transformative effect on everyone, as Dostoevsky's words ring true, "Beauty will save the world!"

Future plane?

Participants of the program are currently in the process of establishing a Social Theatre Network in Ukraine & Poland to better support their work into the future.

To learn more about us

Capsocialtheatre.org

Instagram: [capsocialtheatre](https://www.instagram.com/capsocialtheatre)

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