VISA SCHEMES TO THE UK FOR TCNs FLEEING UKRAINE

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AGENDA

• Safe Passage International
• New visa schemes for Ukrainians
• Ukraine Family scheme
• Homes for Ukraine
• How can we help TCNs who wish to go to the UK?
• Questions?
SAFE PASSAGE INTERNATIONAL

- Legal Charity that helps unaccompanied child refugees find safe, legal routes to sanctuary
- Offices in London, Paris and Athens (setting up a project in Poland soon)
- Born in 2015, when a group of volunteers went to help volunteers in the Calais Jungle
- Until 31.12.2020 – focus on Dublin III family reunification - Now focusing on new safe routes to the UK for refugees
- Combining legal casework and political advocacy and grassroot campaigning
NEW HOME OFFICE SCHEMES

• European Directive DOES NOT apply to the UK (because of Brexit)

• UK Home Office (department responsible for immigration in the UK) introduced TWO ad hoc schemes for Ukrainian nationals fleeing the war:
  1. UKRAINE FAMILY SCHEME
  2. HOMES FOR UKRAINE
UKRAINE FAMILY SCHEME

**Aim**: to allow Ukrainians (and non-Ukrainian nationals family members) to join family members in the UK.

**Cost**: free

**Application mode**: ONLINE

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Sponsor must be a UK-based family member;
- Applicant must be Ukrainian or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who is applying to the scheme;
- Applicant must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine);

TCNs can apply ONLY if going to the UK WITH a Ukrainian FM
HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

**Aim:** to allow Ukrainians without family ties in the UK to safely reach and remain in the UK.

**Cost:** free

**Application mode:** Online

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Applicant must be Ukrainian (or the non-Ukrainian immediate family member);
- Applicant must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022;
- Applicant must be currently outside the UK;
- Applicant must have a UK-based sponsor who is eligible for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme;
- Sponsor must be either a British citizen OR someone Indefinite Leave to Remain OR someone with at least 6 months left on their visa;
- Sponsor must have appropriate accommodation;

TCNs can apply ONLY if going to the UK WITH a Ukrainian FM.
DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER THE UKRAINE SCHEMES

IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.
• Spouse or civil partner (the relationship must have started before 1 January 2022);
• Unmarried partner (living together in a relationship for at least two years);
• Fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner (the relationship must have started before 1 January 2022).
• Under 18-child (age at date of application);
• Parent (if Applicant is a child under-18 at the date of the Application);
• Spouse/unmarried partner/fiancée of their UK-based parent (if Applicant is a child under-18 at the date of the Application);

EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS.
• Parent (for over-18 Applicants);
• Over-18 child;
• Grandparents;
• Grandchildren;
• Their partner’s grandchildren;
• Sibling;
• Aunt or uncle;
• Cousin;
• Niece of nephew;
• Mother-in-law or father-in-law;
• Grandparent-in-law;
• Brother-in-law or sister-in-law.
HELPING TCNs APPLY UNDER THE SCHEMES

- **TCNs alone cannot apply under the schemes**
- SPI is working with UK lawyers on cases of non-Ukrainian citizens fleeing Ukraine, who:
  - (i) have family or other connections to the UK and
  - (ii) who would be eligible for one of the relevant schemes if they were Ukrainian nationals and
  - (ii) have a good reason why they do not wish to or are unable to return to their country of origins

- **HOW?** Applying anyway and if the application is refused, going to Court
- No results yet
OTHER ROUTES TO THE UK (non-Ukraine specific)

Under UK Immigration Rules TCN can apply to join family members in the UK.

• HOWEVER:
  • Rules are complicated
  • Family relationships allowed are very restrictive
  • High application fees
  • Long waiting times
  • No evidential flexibility
  • Poor Home Office decision making
QUESTIONS?

If you know of anyone who wishes to go to the UK, or have any questions, get in touch with Safe Passage International:

E: caterina@safepassage.org.uk

W: https://www.safepassage.org.uk/