

Ireland: Information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [Immigrant Council of Ireland](#)

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This briefing provides country-specific information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine. It is intended as a source of information for refugee response actors and affected individuals. The focus is on stateless people and people at risk of statelessness, including those who are undocumented. Links to more general information for refugees from Ukraine are provided throughout. We will endeavour to keep this information updated. Please contact Ukraine.crisis@statelessness.eu if you have relevant updates. Unless otherwise shown, the source of information provided is the ENS Focal Point.

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & REGISTRATION

Undocumented persons are encouraged to contact Irish authorities to ensure carriers do not prevent them from travelling. For non-Ukrainian citizens residing in Ukraine, a visa may be required.

Upon arrival at Dublin Airport, persons who are entitled to temporary protection will be provided with a letter confirming that they have been granted protection in Ireland. This permission letter will enable them to access all necessary support as soon as possible. For arrivals at Dublin Airport prior to 9 March 2022 or for arrivals at other ports of entry, the letter can be obtained at the [Ukraine Support Centres](#) (Dublin and Limerick). Those staying in state-provided accommodation will receive a visit from staff who can provide them the letter.

There is no specific information on which documents are required for stateless and undocumented persons to enter Ireland. Carriers have been asked to accept government-issued identity documents instead of passports for people to travel to Ireland, including national ID cards, birth certificates, internal passports and expired passports (which are not usually acceptable for international travel). Irish immigration authorities have requested that boarding is not refused to anyone without first contacting them. The [European Commission](#) confirms that a lack of travel documents should not be an obstacle to entering the EU throughout the Ukraine crisis.

For more information on the general situation in Ireland for people fleeing Ukraine, see: Citizens Information page on [Coming to Ireland from Ukraine](#) and the [Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Information Note](#).

Documents required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless persons</u>: no specific information• <u>Adults</u>: national identity document or passport; expired passport/internal passport/national ID card/birth certificate also accepted• <u>Children</u>: a child under 16 can enter Ireland without a passport but parents should establish child's identity and fact they are parent of the child
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless and undocumented persons</u>: permission letter upon recognition of temporary protection status if they meet eligibility criteria• <u>Beneficiaries of international protection</u>: permission letter confirming temporary protection status• <u>Unaccompanied children</u>: will be referred to the Child and Family Agency (also called TUSLA) who will provide the relevant support
Documents issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For eligible persons, permission letter by the Department of Justice confirming they have been granted temporary protection
Entry status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beneficiary of temporary protection or asylum seeker

2. ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Ireland offers three forms of protection: refugee status, subsidiary protection, and temporary protection. The Temporary Protection Directive has been implemented into Irish law. Stateless persons may apply for all forms of protection, subject to eligibility criteria.

The Irish authorities will not return any individuals to Ukraine during the war. People who are not eligible for temporary protection may still apply for international protection in Ireland. The Irish Government has indicated that people who were residing in Ukraine without a permanent residence permit will be assisted to return to their country of origin if it is safe for them to do so (unless Ukraine is their country of origin), with the support of the International Organisation for Migration.

	Refugee Status	Subsidiary Protection	Temporary protection
What is it?	Protection under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	For persons who do not qualify as a refugee but the International Protection Office of Ireland considers that they face a real risk of suffering serious harm in their country of origin	Temporary protection for eligible persons fleeing the war in Ukraine
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes	Yes	Yes, if they meet eligibility criteria (i.e., beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine, and their family members; or permanent residence in Ukraine and cannot return to country of origin); unclear whether undocumented persons are eligible and how they can apply for protection
Where to apply?	The application must be made in person as soon as possible on arrival, either at the airport or seaport where the person arrived in Ireland or after entry to Ireland at the International Protection Office (IPO), Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service	Same as Refugee Status	Dublin Airport, or at one of the Ukrainian Support Centres in Cork, Dublin, Limerick or Rosslare Port
Procedure & rights	The authorities will consider whether the person qualifies for a refugee declaration (or a subsidiary protection declaration); applicants complete a preliminary interview; all available documents relevant to the claim should be provided to	Same as Refugee Status	Upon arrival at a reception hub, applicant will be given a permission letter by the Department of Justice confirming they have been granted temporary protection

	the IPO (passports, identity cards, birth/marriage/ school certificates, membership cards and any other documents)		
Rights upon recognition	On the same basis as Irish nationals: right to work, access to education and training, medical care and social security, right to reside in Ireland for a minimum of 3 years (renewable), to travel to and from Ireland, and a travel document	Same as Refugee Status	Legal permission to reside in Ireland for 1 year; right to a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN); employment and self-employment; suitable accommodation or assistance in obtaining housing; school if they are children under 18 years; social welfare income supports; healthcare services; right to apply for asylum

For more information, see:

- Citizens Information, [Coming to Ireland from Ukraine, Temporary Protection Directive](#)
- Irish Government, [Help page on Ukraine, Temporary protection](#)
- Irish Refugee Council, [Ukraine Information Note](#)
- Department of Justice, [FAQs for Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine](#)
- International Protection Office in Ireland, [Home page, Information booklet for Applicants for International Protection](#)
- European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles, [Information Sheet](#)
- EU Asylum Agency, [Who is Who in International Protection, Temporary Protection overview](#)
- KIND & Child Circle, [Note on unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine](#)
- Right to Protection, [Who are stateless persons who fled Ukraine after the Russian invasion on 24 of February, 2022](#)

3. STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION AND PROTECTION STATUS

For stateless people, it is important to determine both a claim for international protection and their statelessness. Each application should be assessed and both types of status should be explicitly recognised so that even if international protection ceases, the person remains entitled to protection as a stateless person. Statelessness determination should be conducted either in parallel with or following the refugee status determination, with due regard to the primacy of the asylum claim and the principle of confidentiality for refugees in statelessness determination procedures. For more information, see: [ENS briefing on statelessness determination & protection in Europe](#).

In Ireland there is no dedicated statelessness determination procedure and there is no official guidance on how to determine or claim statelessness. Statelessness may be identified in the context of other administrative procedures, such as immigration, international protection, or nationality related procedures. However, statelessness determination is not the specific objective of these mechanisms and regularisation rarely leads to any rights linked to statelessness *per se*. The protection available to stateless migrants therefore depends on the rights attached to the type of residence or protection status the person can acquire and is usually not in line with the 1954 Convention and international human rights law. There is a facilitated route to

naturalisation for stateless people after a reduced residence period of three years, but naturalisation may be refused if statelessness cannot be proven. Stateless persons are not routinely detained.

Stateless persons are advised to seek legal advice on their routes to protection and any other residence permission options in Ireland (e.g. from [Immigrant Council of Ireland](#) or [UNHCR](#)). For more information, see: [ENS Statelessness Index Ireland](#).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

Individuals who have been granted temporary protection should be able to travel within the EU for 90 days within a 180-day period but should keep their letter confirming temporary protection status with them. If a person decides to move from Ireland to another EU Member State, the residence permit and rights they benefitted from in Ireland will expire. The new host EU country should give them temporary protection and issue a new residence permit.

Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can travel to most countries in the EU without a visa and stay up to 90 days using their travel document. They may not travel to their country of origin. For other countries, they should confirm in advance with the embassy of their intended travel destination if any restrictions apply. They do not require a re-entry permit upon return to Ireland.

5. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Resources for people arriving in Ireland from Ukraine, including information on English language classes, links to work and mentoring programmes, information about childcare services and adult education, how to open a bank account, and more, may be found on the [Citizens Information page](#).

6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

Immigrant Council of Ireland https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/ Immigration helpline: +353 (1) 674-0200 Helpline with Ukrainian language information Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1 pm: (01) 913 1528	UNHCR Ireland https://help.unhcr.org/ireland/ukraine-situation/ +353 1 631 4510 Ukrainian and Russian language helpline and message service every Thursday from 2 pm to 5 pm, through WhatsApp or Telegram (calls and messages): +353 (0)89 490 2920 iredu@unhcr.org ireduprt@unhcr.org
Irish Refugee Council Dedicated helpline for Ukrainians (Ukrainian and Russian speakers): +353 (1) 913 1528 info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie	Migrant Rights Centre Ireland https://www.mrci.ie + 353 083 0755 387 info@mrci.ie