

# Czech Republic: Information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine



European  
Network on  
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [Organization for Aid to Refugees \(OPU\)](#)

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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](mailto: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

Most stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness entering the Czech Republic from Ukraine are Romani people, undocumented children, unaccompanied minors, and former USSR citizens.

The Ministry of Interior advises people who do not hold a biometric passport to bring all other available documents proving their identity to enter the Czech Republic. There are unofficial reports that women, children, and elderly persons without a passport should be able to enter the country but there are [no guarantees](#). The [European Commission](#) confirms that a lack of travel documents or medical documents (certificate of vaccination, COVID-19 test) should not be an obstacle to entering the EU throughout the Ukraine crisis. There are currently no reports of deportations from Czech Republic to Ukraine.

Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU) have been established to process and register people arriving in the Czech Republic and to immediately grant Temporary Protection to those who qualify.

For more information on entry and stay in the Czech Republic, see the [Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic information page for Ukrainians, Nasi Ukrajinci](#) (including a list of the regional KACPU centres), [Association for Integration and Migration \(SIMI\)](#), and [UNHCR help page](#). The Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU) runs the help line [Infoline IRENA](#) in Czech and Ukrainian.

The information below applies to persons who are neither Ukrainian nor EU nationals, or who are unable to prove their Ukrainian or EU citizenship:

<b>Documents required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No document is required to enter Czech Republic; Ministry of Interior advises people to bring any available documents to prove identity</li><li>• <u>Stateless persons</u>: any available documents to prove identity, but <a href="#">lack of documents should not be an obstacle to enter</a></li><li>• <u>Adults</u>: Biometric passport if possible, or other documents to prove identity; lack of documents should not be an obstacle to enter</li><li>• <u>Children</u>: as above</li></ul>
<b>Entry and registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Persons eligible for temporary protection</u>: can register and apply for temporary protection at the KACPU regional centres. If temporary protection is not granted immediately (e.g. due to lack of documents or other issues in the registration, often affecting Roma families), police grants confirmation of application for temporary protection and a decision is issued within 10 days</li><li>• <u>Persons not eligible for temporary or international protection (including stateless and undocumented persons)</u>: may apply for a “tolerance visa” to stay in Czech Republic for 90 days (renewable) if unable to return home</li><li>• <u>Unaccompanied children</u>: should go to KACPU regional centres to receive protection; must always be assisted by social workers (OSPOD office), except children aged 15 or</li></ul>

	more, or children accompanied by adults other than their parents; contact <a href="#">OPU</a> to be connected to trained social workers
<b>Documents issued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Persons eligible for temporary protection</u>: receive a temporary protection stamp in their travel document, or a separate temporary document if they do not hold travel documents</li> <li>• <u>Applicants for international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection)</u>: receive temporary identity document while their application is pending (<i>průkaz žadatele o mezinárodní ochranu</i>)</li> <li>• <u>Applicants for statelessness status</u>: receive identity document confirming their application is pending</li> </ul>
<b>Entry status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor under Schengen rules, beneficiary of temporary protection, tolerance visa holder, asylum-seeker, applicant for statelessness status</li> </ul>

## 2. ROUTES TO PROTECTION

Persons fleeing Ukraine, including eligible stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness, can apply for international protection or temporary protection, which is currently the fastest route to protection as it is typically granted immediately upon registration. The Ministry of Interior recently [proposed an amendment to Lex Ukraine](#), which would come into force in June, and would exclude people who hold another EU nationality from temporary protection. It would also change the deadlines to process applications and report a change of residence.

The available routes to protection are summarised in the table below.

	<b>International Protection</b>	<b>Temporary Protection</b>
<b>What is it?</b>	<p><u>Asylum status</u>: for people eligible under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and for people entitled to <a href="#">protection on humanitarian grounds</a></p> <p><u>Subsidiary protection</u>: for people who do not meet the conditions for refugee status but would be exposed to a real risk of serious harm if returned</p>	Temporary protection for eligible persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine (implemented in the Czech Republic through “Lex Ukraine”)
<b>Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?</b>	Yes, as long as they can <a href="#">prove their identity</a> (including through a statement/statutory declaration)	<p><u>Stateless persons</u>: yes, if they meet eligibility criteria (i.e., beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine, which includes statelessness status in Ukraine, or permanent residence in Ukraine and cannot return to country of origin, and their family members)</p> <p><u>Undocumented persons</u>: Lack of documents should not be an obstacle but the procedure is not immediate; may need to contact Ukrainian Embassy or the Ukrainian Consulate in Czech Republic to <a href="#">confirm identity</a></p>
<b>Where to apply?</b>	At the <a href="#">reception centres</a> for asylum seekers presently at Zastávka u Brna or Prague Airport, or in detention centres	At Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine ( <a href="#">KACPU</a> ) within 3 days of arrival to the Czech Republic or at the Ministry of the

		Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy
<b>Procedure &amp; rights</b>	Applications made in detention centres must be submitted within 7 days of being informed of the right to apply for asylum; decision within 6 months (extendable up to 21 months); applicants receive ID; right to communicate in native language; translator; legal assistance; can contact UNHCR or relevant NGOs	Applicants are required to fill out an application ( <a href="#">available here</a> ) and submit it together with a valid travel document and preferably a photograph; temporary protection should be received immediately upon arrival; undocumented applicants may need to undergo additional screening; are registered as applicants for temporary protection and receive a decision within 10 days; an application for temporary protection suspends any pending asylum application
<b>Rights upon recognition</b>	Asylum status: 10 years renewable residence permit, 5 years for children under 15 years old; travel document upon application; right to work; access to housing; financial aid; healthcare; education.  Subsidiary protection: residence permit for at least one year (renewable); foreigners' passport upon application; right to work; financial aid; healthcare; welfare benefits; education	Right to stay in the Czech Republic for one year <a href="#">but no longer than until 31 March 2023</a> ; right to access healthcare, financial aid, education, work, and accommodation; right to travel to and stay in other EU countries for no longer than 90 days

For more information, see:

- Information help line for Ukrainians run daily in Czech and Ukrainian by the Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU), [IRENA](#)
- Ministry of Interior, [Naši Ukrajinci portal](#) for persons fleeing Ukraine including a list of KACPU Regional assistance centres for Ukrainians (in Czech, Ukrainian, English)/[Information on Temporary Protection](#)
- PomahejUkrajine, [Central portal for offering and accessing help related to the war in Ukraine](#), run jointly by members of the Consortium of NGOs working with migrants
- [Integration program](#)
- [Series of Laws “Lex Ukraine”](#), on temporary protection, employment and education
- Right to Protection, [Who are stateless persons who fled Ukraine after the Russian invasion on 24 of February, 2022](#)
- KIND & Child Circle, [Note on unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine](#)
- European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)

### 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](#).

The Czech Republic does not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure. The relevant legislation was amended in 2021 and statelessness determination is now covered by the Immigration Act. The authorities may determine statelessness, but the amended Immigration Act is vague and the new procedure is unclear. There are no provisions to regulate the status of stateless applicants, nor procedural safeguards, and the right to remain on the territory is not guaranteed. Decisions should be made within six months, which can be prolonged for another six months if the case is complex. If the person is determined to be stateless, they are granted a renewable tolerated stay visa for one year, which is a very limited protection status. Since 2019, successful applicants have been issued a certificate stating their statelessness under the 1954 Convention. However, it is not yet clear how the recent legislative amendments will be implemented in practice. The most recent jurisprudence and the Czech Ombudsperson reiterate that, even after the amendments to the law in 2021, applicants for statelessness determination must have procedural guarantees analogous to asylum seekers (including identity documents). Stateless persons may also regularise their stay by applying for temporary or international protection (see above). Depending on the situation, they may be able to apply for another type of residence permit, although a lack of travel or identity documents can be an obstacle.

Stateless persons are strongly advised to seek expert legal advice on their rights in the Czech Republic (e.g., from [OPU](#) – contact details below). For more information, see [ENS Statelessness Index Czech Republic](#).

#### 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

Applicants for international protection (asylum status or subsidiary protection) cannot leave the Czech Republic until a decision is made on their application. Beneficiaries of temporary protection may travel to other EU Member States for 90 days within a 180-day period and may travel to non-EU countries based on the requirements of third countries.

#### 5. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

There are reports of discrimination against Romani people from Ukraine in accessing housing or obtaining temporary protection, as well as discrimination against non-Ukrainian nationals who lived in Ukraine, such as students from West Africa. In particular, Romani families have reported discrimination at the KACPU centre in Prague: some families were refused entry to the centre and returned to [Prague Railway Station](#) or travelled on to other countries. Some were initially allowed to enter the KACPU centre, but they had to undergo additional screening even when they had travel documents, and the authorities tried to prevent them from proceeding with their temporary protection registration, claiming either that they were Hungarian nationals or that they needed to provide proof of housing in the Czech Republic. In some cases, Romani people have been granted three-day exit visas.

#### 6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<b>Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU)</b> <a href="https://www.opu.cz/en/">https://www.opu.cz/en/</a> +42 073 015 8779, +42 073 941 3983 <a href="mailto:opu@opu.cz">opu@opu.cz</a> , <a href="mailto:pravni@opu.cz">pravni@opu.cz</a> Hotline for those fleeing Ukraine: +420 228 229 942 Contact information for various offices across Czech Republic can be found <a href="#">HERE</a> .	<b>UNHCR</b> <a href="https://help.unhcr.org/czech/">https://help.unhcr.org/czech/</a> +420 776 437 775 <a href="mailto:czepr@unhcr.org">czepr@unhcr.org</a>
<b>Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI)</b> <a href="http://www.migrace.com/">http://www.migrace.com/</a> +42 022 422 4379 <a href="mailto:poradna@refug.cz">poradna@refug.cz</a>	<b>Forum for Human Rights</b> <a href="https://forumhr.eu/">https://forumhr.eu/</a> <a href="mailto:forum@forumhr.eu">forum@forumhr.eu</a>

<p><b>Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic</b> <a href="https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/">https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/</a> +420 974 811 111 <a href="mailto:posta@mvcr.cz">posta@mvcr.cz</a> Information for persons fleeing Ukraine: <a href="https://www.nasiukrajinci.cz/cs/">https://www.nasiukrajinci.cz/cs/</a></p>	<p><b>Czech Bar Association</b> List of Czech attorneys who offer pro bono legal assistance and services to people fleeing Ukraine <a href="https://www.cak.cz/scripts/detail.php?id=25507">https://www.cak.cz/scripts/detail.php?id=25507</a></p>
<p><b>Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI)</b> Free legal and social aid to persons fleeing Ukraine including stateless persons <a href="https://www.migrace.com/">https://www.migrace.com/</a> +420 224 224 379 <a href="mailto:poradna@migrace.com">poradna@migrace.com</a></p>	<p><b>List of integration centres</b> <a href="#">Free social aid to migrants</a> <a href="https://www.integracnicentra.cz/">https://www.integracnicentra.cz/</a></p>