

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



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [Law Center of Advocates \(CDA\)](#)

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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. SITUATION AT THE BORDER & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are reports that some documented stateless persons have crossed from Ukraine to Moldova without difficulty.

For more information on the location of border crossings, number of people crossing, and the general situation in Moldova for people fleeing from Ukraine, see: [UNHCR Operational Data Portal on Moldova](#) and [Ukrainian Border Guard](#). Frontex officials are present at the border supporting registration and identity checks following an [agreement](#) between the EU and Moldova on 17 March.

Documents required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless persons</u>: unclear• <u>Adults</u>: national identity document or passport; expired passport, national ID card, or a birth certificate are also accepted• <u>Children</u>: birth certificate or certificate confirming fact of birth issued by a medical institution, or national ID card or international passport; undocumented children accompanied by their parents are allowed to cross after completing formalities with the Border Police
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless persons</u>: required to register with the Migration & Asylum Bureau (BMA) upon arrival and claim asylum; may apply for statelessness status once in-country• <u>Undocumented persons</u>: required to register with the BMA upon arrival and claim asylum• <u>Beneficiaries of international protection</u>: required to register with the BMA upon arrival; may claim asylum although practice is unclear• <u>Unaccompanied children</u>: permitted entry; border police must inform and hand-over care to child protection authority
Documents issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Asylum-seeker</u>: renewable temporary identity document valid for 30 days
Entry status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asylum-seeker

2. ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness and undocumented persons can apply for protection in Moldova even if they are undocumented. Moldova recognises statelessness status and international protection granted by Ukraine. Moldova offers different forms of international protection: refugee status, humanitarian protection, temporary protection, and political asylum. Temporary protection is not currently accessible for people fleeing Ukraine, as the Government has not issued the implementing decision required to activate the procedure.

The routes to protection available to stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness are summarised below (see Section 3 for Statelessness Status).

	Refugee Status	Humanitarian Protection
What is it?	Protection under 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	Protection for persons who do not meet 1951 Convention definition but would be subject to serious risk upon return
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes	Yes
Where to apply?	At border, police station, detention facility, or Bureau of Migration & Asylum within 90 days	Same as Refugee Status
Procedure & rights	Application questionnaire, interview, decision within 6 months, legal assistance from NGOs, right to appeal, interpreter provided, renewable temporary ID for 30 days, right to request work, school for children	Same as Refugee Status
Rights upon recognition	Remain in Moldova, obtain an ID card for 5 years, travel documents upon request for 2 years, work, study, social insurance, practice own religion, monetary aid	Remain in Moldova, obtain an ID card for 1 year and then a temporary ID document, travel document upon request for 1 year, work, study, social insurance, practice own religion, monetary aid

For more information, see:

- [Law Centre of Advocates \(CDA\)](#)
- [Government help page on Ukraine](#)
- [Bureau of Migration & Asylum \(BMA\)](#)
- [Information center for refugees from Ukraine](#)
- 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](#).

Moldova has a dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedure and statelessness protection status. The procedure is summarised in the table below. For more information, see: [ENS Statelessness Index Moldova](#).

	Statelessness Status
What is it?	Protection under the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes
Where to apply?	At Bureau of Migration & Asylum (no time-limit); applications cannot be made at the border
Procedure & rights	Ex officio, in person, oral or written application, interview, decision within 6 months (may be extended to 12 months), legal assistance from NGOs, right to appeal, interpreter provided, temporary ID document, right to work, housing, right to social security if working
Rights upon recognition	Permanent residence, rights in line with nationals (travel document, family reunion, work, secondary & higher education, social security, healthcare etc.)

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

People who apply for international protection in Moldova must [hand over](#) their identity documents, including travel documents, so may not leave the territory of Moldova during the application process. People holding a passport may [enter Romania from Moldova](#). People without a valid passport may enter Romania by applying for asylum. With the support of UNHCR and IOM, Moldova and Romania began [an initiative](#) on 10 March 2022 to accelerate the transfer of people fleeing Ukraine from Moldova to Romania, and other EU Member States [have started transfers](#) of displaced persons into their territory under the EU Solidarity Platform.

5. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

[Mechanisms for emergency cash distribution](#) have been set up with the support of UNHCR, the Moldovan Government, and NGOs. A one-off cash grant for 50,000 host families is also being established.

6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<p>Law Centre of Advocates https://cda.md/ Statelessness hotline: +37369906400 Asylum hotline: +37368828180 Info page for Ukrainians: КРАТКИЙ СПРАВОЧНИК ДЛЯ БЕЖЕНЦЕВ/ОК ИЗ УКРАИНЫ В МОЛДОВЕ - CDA</p>	<p>UNHCR +373 22 271 853 hunbu@unhcr.org</p>
<p>Government help page for Ukrainians https://dopomoga.gov.md/index.php Hotline for Migration agency (from Moldova): +3780001527 Hotline for Migration agency (from Ukraine): +37322820007</p>	<p>Government Asylum webpage for Ukrainians ВАЖЛИВО! Biroul Migratie si Azil (gov.md) Hotline: +3780001527</p>
<p>National Council for State Guaranteed Legal Assistance, partner of the Migration and Asylum Office (+37322) 496 953, 496 339, 310065 ot_chisinau@cnaigs.md http://www.cnaigs.md/ro</p>	