

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



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [Portuguese Refugee Council](#)

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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

Specific information regarding stateless persons is not available. Entry without a passport or an Emergency Travel Document in Portugal may be possible but cannot be guaranteed. People who had international protection or another residence permit in Ukraine, as well as their family members, may travel directly to Portugal. For that purpose, people who do not have a biometric passport should request that a Portuguese embassy exceptionally issues an [emergency travel document](#) (“Título de Viagem Única” or “TVU”) so they can travel directly to Portugal, although there is no information on how this is implemented in practice. People who wish to apply for protection in Portugal from abroad can [express an interest by filling out an online form](#) (in English, but [also available](#) in Portuguese and Ukrainian). In the form, it is possible to specify that the person is undocumented.

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.

For more information on travelling to Portugal from Ukraine, see the [High Commissioner for Migration’s webpage on Ukraine](#), the FAQ prepared by the Portuguese government in [English](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Portuguese](#) (the Portuguese version is usually more complete and up to date) and the [Portuguese Communities Portal](#).

Documents required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systematic border checks are not being performed at land borders• <u>Stateless and undocumented persons</u>: unclear, no specific information on stateless persons; may express interest to apply for protection even without documents• <u>Adults</u>: biometric passport or Emergency Travel Document, but it may be possible to enter and register even without these documents• <u>Children</u>: no specific information regarding children without a biometric passport and/or not registered on a parent’s passport
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless and undocumented persons</u>: entry without a passport or an Emergency Travel Document may be possible by land but cannot be guaranteed; specific information regarding stateless persons is not available• <u>Beneficiaries of international protection</u>: may enter and apply for temporary protection, respecting the eligibility conditions• <u>Unaccompanied children</u>: entry is permitted; border police must be informed to refer the child to competent child protection authorities; people caring for a child that is not accompanied by family members should fill out this form to inform the authorities
Documents issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Applicants for temporary protection</u>: certificate of application• <u>Applicants for international protection</u>: certificate of application that validates the stay in Portugal while the procedure is pending
Entry status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitor under Schengen rules, temporary protection or asylum-seeker

2. ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Portugal offers three forms of protection for stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness: refugee status, subsidiary protection, and temporary protection under EU law. These routes to protection are summarised in the table below:

	Refugee Status	Subsidiary Protection	Temporary Protection
What is it?	Protection under the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as implemented by Portuguese national law	Subsidiary protection, as implemented by Portuguese national law , for persons who are not refugees under the 1951 Convention, but who cannot return to their country due to systematic violation of human rights or the risk of suffering serious harm	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 who are unable to return, their family members, or permanent residents in Ukraine, holders of a temporary residence permit, or a long-stay visa in Ukraine who cannot return safely to their country of origin)
Where to apply?	At point of arrival before the Borders and Immigration Service (SEF), or at any other location before the police	Same as Refugee Status	Adults can apply online at the Borders and Immigration Service (SEF) website ; or in person at: (i) National Centres for Support to Migrant Integration (CNAIM) in Lisbon, Porto, and Faro; or (ii) Borders and Immigration Service (SEF) counters exclusively for Ukrainian citizens. Minors need to apply at one of the exclusive Borders and Immigration Service (SEF) counters
Procedure & rights	Procedure : biometric data collected if over 14 years; supporting document validating stay in Portugal; accommodation in an	Same as Refugee Status	Procedure : fill out a form (possibility to choose nationality or origin as “unknown”); biometric data collected;

	accommodation centre; interview; interpretation; free legal assistance; provisional residence permit valid for six months; right to work and study; decision with reasoning within six to nine months (may take longer in practice); right to appeal		confirmation of application; right to use any means of proof, including witness testimonies; pending the application right to healthcare, benefits, and social security; application can be denied on specific national security grounds, see Article 6 of the Law on Temporary Protection
Rights upon recognition	Renewable residence permit valid for five years; rights granted on the same basis as Portuguese nationals, including work, education, social security, healthcare, and integration assistance	Renewable residence permit valid for three years; rights granted on the same basis as Portuguese nationals, including work, education, social security, healthcare, and integration assistance	Residence permit valid for one year (limited renewal); Tax Identification Number (NIF); Social Security Identification Number (NISS); National Health Service (SNS) user number; right to work; education; social security; medical assistance

For more information, see:

- Portugal for Ukraine, [main page](#)
- High Commission for Migration (ACM), [page dedicated to Ukraine](#)
- Portuguese Refugee Council, [main page](#) (in Portuguese only)
- Portuguese Government ePortal, [Ukraine: Information and support available in Portugal](#)
- Portuguese Ministry of Justice, [Reception and Integration of Ukrainian Citizens in Portugal](#)
- Borders and Immigration Service (SEF), [main webpage](#), [International Protection](#), [Temporary Protection](#), contacts: +351 21 711 50 00 / SEFforUkraine@sef.pt
- Asylum Information Database, [Country Report: Portugal](#)
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles, [Information Sheet](#)
- EU Asylum Agency, [Who is Who in International Protection, Temporary Protection overview](#)
- EASO, [Guidance on reception conditions for unaccompanied children](#)
- 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](#).

Portugal does not have a dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedure nor a statelessness protection status. The law does not provide for a specific status nor any rights to be granted to stateless people on the basis of their statelessness, but healthcare is provided to everyone regardless of their residence or documentation status (subject to low fees), and education is provided for children. People holding a residence permit on other grounds or benefitting from international protection have access to other rights. Stateless

persons who are eligible for international protection will be able to regularise their stay in Portugal through that route. For more information, see: [ENS Statelessness Index Portugal](#).

Stateless people or people at risk of statelessness who need protection in Portugal should seek legal advice as soon as possible (e.g. from the [Portuguese Refugee Council](#) and the [High Commissioner for Migration](#)).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

Recognised refugees are issued a travel document [upon request](#), which allows them to travel outside the Portuguese territory. Beneficiaries of subsidiary and temporary protection who cannot obtain a national passport, including stateless people, may be issued a Portuguese passport for foreigners upon request, which also allows them to travel outside the Portuguese territory. Both requests can be denied if there are national security or public order concerns. All temporary residence permits [can be cancelled](#) if the holders are absent from Portugal for a certain time period.

5. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

To facilitate integration, Portugal has created a [list of job opportunities](#) and a system to support people fleeing Ukraine in finding accommodation. Interested people can also submit their work interests and CV directly through this [form](#). Beneficiaries of temporary protection are offered free Portuguese language classes across the country. For more information, contact ofertasucrania@iefp.pt and glpt@acm.gov.pt.

6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

Conselho Português para os Refugiados (CPR) https://cpr.pt/ +351 21 831 43 72 geral@cpr.pt	UNHCR , represented by team reporting to the Regional Bureau for Europe Contact Form: https://www.unhcr.org/contact-us.html
High Commission for Migration (ACM) https://www.acm.gov.pt/-/sos-ucrania Migrant Helpline and Telephone Translation Service in Ukrainian: 808 257 257 (for calls from the landline network in Portugal) or +351 21 810 61 91 (mobile and abroad) sosucrania@acm.gov.pt	