

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



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor - [Law Centre of Advocates \(CDA\)](#)

Last updated: 18 January 2023

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. The Law Centre of Advocates (CDA), ACTED and INTERSOS are [present](#) at border crossing points and refugee accommodation centres to provide assistance, including with transportation, protection, vulnerability screening and counselling.

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>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• <u>Stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness</u>: as above if they have such documents, if not, entry will be permitted in order to apply for asylum
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Recognised stateless persons</u>: entry into the country is registered by the Border Police; they may apply for asylum• <u>Undocumented persons</u>: entry into the country is registered by the Border Police; they may apply for asylum or statelessness status• <u>Beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine</u>: entry into the country is registered by the Border Police; they may apply for asylum in Moldova• <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• <u>Applicants for statelessness status</u>: renewable temporary identity document valid for 3 months
Entry status	Asylum-seeker (in case of asylum application); other foreigner status

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

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protection granted by Ukraine. Moldova offers different forms of international protection: refugee status, humanitarian protection, temporary protection, and political asylum. According to the Government’s decision from 18 January 2023, temporary protection will be activated on 1 March 2023.

Temporary protection is available to stateless persons recognised as stateless by Ukrainian authorities and to stateless persons who benefitted from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine. Moldova does not extend temporary protection to stateless persons who had a valid permanent residence permit in Ukraine, nor to undocumented persons from Ukraine.

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	Temporary 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	Temporary protection for eligible displaced persons from Ukraine, similar to the EU Temporary Protection Directive and Council Decision (to be activated on 1 March 2023)
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes	Yes	<u>Stateless persons</u> : yes, if eligible (i.e., people recognised as stateless by Ukrainian authorities; beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine & family members, who are unable to safely return to country or region of origin) <u>Undocumented people</u> : may not apply
Where to apply?	At border, police stations, detention facilities, or Bureau of Migration & Asylum	Same as Refugee Status	At the Bureau of Migration & Asylum.
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	Online application (pre-registration), visit to Migration Service for an in-person interview and collection of biometric data (Bureau of Migration & Asylum), decision on same day, legal assistance from NGOs, right to appeal
Rights upon recognition	Remain in Moldova, obtain an ID card for 5 years, travel documents upon request for 2 years, work, study, social	Remain in Moldova, obtain an ID card for 3 years, travel document upon request for 1 year, work, study, social	Remain in Moldova, temporary ID for one year, right to work, school for children, housing, primary and emergency

	insurance, practice own religion, monetary aid	insurance, practice own religion, monetary aid	health services, social assistance for families with children
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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](#)
- [Moldova, Decision on Temporary Protection, 18 January 2023](#)
- 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. In the context of this Platform, 16 European countries - Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland [had pledged](#) in May 2022 to transfer 19,870 refugees from Moldova.

5. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

As of January 2023, almost 750,000 refugees from Ukraine had entered Moldova and over 102,000 [remained](#), almost half of whom are children. [Mechanisms for emergency cash distribution](#) have been set up with the support of UNHCR, the Moldovan Government, and NGOs. 107,705 people have received cash assistance to date. 10 [Blue Dots](#) have been established by UNHCR and UNICEF in Moldova, which 48,300 people have reached out to.

There are [reports](#) of discrimination against Romani people indicating that Moldovan authorities house Romani people separately from other persons fleeing the war in Ukraine and deny them housing at government-run facilities.

6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<p>Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor - Law Centre of Advocates (CDA) 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 – Moldova https://www.unhcr.org/md/ mdachhr@unhcr.org Green line (free helpline): +37380080011</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 http://bma.gov.md/ro/content/%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%B6%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%BE Hotline: +37380001527 Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/347615063908402 More information in Ukrainian about State Telegram channel: https://t.me/prima_sursa_md/24</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>	