

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

For non-Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine, a visa may be required. In February 2022, the entry [visa requirements to Ireland were lifted for Ukrainian nationals](#). Those who entered Ireland under the visa waiver have 90 days to regularise their status in the country.

Upon arrival at the border in Ireland, persons who are entitled to temporary protection will be provided with a letter confirming that they have been granted protection in Ireland (“temporary protection permission letter”). This permission letter will enable them to access all necessary support as soon as possible. For arrivals to Ireland prior to 9 March 2022, the letter can be obtained at [Ukraine Support Centres](#) (Dublin, Cork and Limerick). Those who cannot travel to a centre can email ukrainesupportmailbox@justice.ie to try to make other arrangements to obtain a permission letter. More information on social protection supports in Ireland is available from the [Irish Government](#) or the Irish [Department](#) of Social Protection.

There is no specific information on which documents are required for stateless and undocumented people 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. To date, service providers in Ireland have not identified issues relating to stateless persons gaining access to the territory. Stateless and undocumented people are encouraged to contact Irish authorities to ensure carriers do not prevent them from travelling. 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">• Stateless persons: no specific information• Adults: national identity document or passport; expired passport/internal passport/national ID card/birth certificate also accepted• Children: 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">• Stateless and undocumented persons: permission letter upon recognition of temporary protection status if they meet eligibility criteria• Beneficiaries of international protection: permission letter confirming temporary protection status• Unaccompanied children: 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
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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 Government confirmed that the temporary protection permission already granted to those who had fled Ukraine following Russian’s invasion is automatically extended to March 2025.

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. There is no appeals mechanism to challenge a refusal to be granted temporary protection, but according to the Department of Justice it might be possible for the applicant to submit new evidence showing eligibility to the Ukraine Support Centres, depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant.

	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, as provided for by the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55 EC) and has been activated by EU Council Decision EU 2022/382 of 4 March 2022.
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).
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), Immigration Service Delivery.	Same as Refugee Status	Border/port of entry , 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	Same as Refugee Status	Upon arrival at a reception hub, applicant will be given a permission letter by the

	refugee declaration (or a subsidiary protection declaration); applicants complete a preliminary interview; all available documents relevant to the claim should be provided to the IPO (passports, identity cards, birth/marriage/ school certificates, membership cards and any other documents)		Department of Justice confirming they have been granted temporary protection. For arrivals at other ports of entry, the permission letter can be obtained at Ukraine Support Centres (Dublin, Cork and Limerick)
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 Convention travel document	Same as Refugee Status but may hold a national passport.	Legal permission to reside in Ireland for 1 year, which is currently automatically extended to March 2025; 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; loss of TP status if 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, Extension of Temporary Protection Permissions](#)
- International Protection Office in Ireland, [Home page, Information booklet for Applicants for International Protection](#)
- [UNHCR Help Ireland](#) for People fleeing Ukraine
- European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
- [European Commission, Communication, Temporary protection for those fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine one year on \(March 2023\)](#)
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles, [Information Sheet](#)
- EU Asylum Agency, [Who is Who in International Protection, Temporary Protection overview](#)
- [EU Asylum Agency, Providing Temporary Protection to Displaced Persons from Ukraine: A Year in Review \(March 2023\)](#)
- [Fundamental Rights Agency, Report on Fleeing Ukraine - Fleeing Ukraine: Displaced people's experiences in the EU](#)
- [Fundamental Rights Agency, Fundamental Rights Implications for the EU of the War in Ukraine](#)
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), [Updated Information Sheet on Measures in response to the Arrival of Displaced People Fleeing the War in Ukraine \(March 2023\)](#)

- [Asylum Information Database \(AIDA\) country report on Ireland, annex on Temporary Protection](#)
- KIND & Child Circle, [Note on unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Centre Memorial, The situation of Ukrainian children in European countries after 24 February 2022](#)
- [Caritas Europa, Europe's welcome of refugees from Ukraine and lessons learnt](#)
- 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 [Irish Refugee Council](#)). For more information, see: [ENS Statelessness Index Ireland](#) and the UNHCR Report on [Mapping Statelessness in 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](#). In-person meetings may be offered in the [Support centres](#) to provide information and referrals to other services.

There is insufficient housing available to accommodate all people fleeing to Ireland from Ukraine. The government will prioritise vulnerable people first, including women and minors. If you stay in accommodation where food is provided, you must pay a contribution of €10 per day for adults, and €5 per day for each child. You do not have to pay for your first 2 weeks. If you refuse to pay, you could be asked to leave. If you refuse one offer of accommodation, you will not get any other offers. More information can be found on the [UNHCR Help page](#) and the [Citizens Information page](#).

There have been no reports of refusal of entry or other difficulties for beneficiaries of temporary protection re-entering Ireland after having returned to Ukraine.

6. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<p>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) 6740200</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Irish Refugee Council https://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/ Dedicated helpline for Ukrainians (Ukrainian and Russian speakers): +353 (1) 913 1528 info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie</p>	<p>Civil Legal Aid Board https://www.legalaidboard.ie/en/lawyers-and-experts/legal-professionals-in-civil-cases/international-protection/ National legal aid service for international protection applicants. Offices in different cities with contact information provided on the website</p>