



The professional association for
social work and social workers

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Support specific to Ukraine

The UK Government established three visa schemes for displaced Ukrainians:

- A [Family Scheme](#) for those with family members in the UK.
- An [Extension Scheme](#) for those who held a valid UK visa on or after 1 January 2022.
- A [Sponsorship Scheme](#) through which displaced Ukrainians are sponsored by hosts that offer them accommodation for at least six months. The Scottish Government [acted as a supersponsor](#) for the scheme but applications have been [paused since 13 July 2022](#).

Details of the schemes and the application processes are provided in a [Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing](#).

The Scottish Government published specific guidance for local authorities in April 2022 (last updated June 2023) outlining the role of local councils in supporting Ukrainian guests who arrive under both the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme and who match privately into Scotland through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. [Read the guidance here](#).

The Scottish Government also has guidance (**last updated April 2024**) for displaced people from Ukraine, including on visa applications, immigration advice and flight options. This guidance is available in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish. [Read the guidance here](#).

In June 2022, [the UK Government confirmed](#) that unaccompanied children and minors under 18 who have applied through the Homes for Ukraine scheme are allowed to come to the UK.

The Scottish Government has published guidance (**last updated March 2024**) for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need. [Read the guidance here](#). A welcome checklist and a screening form for unaccompanied children have also been produced and both forms are [available on the Scottish Government website](#).

[A free vetting scheme](#) has also been published, as well as [guidance for hosts](#).

Access to Benefits

The Scottish Government has confirmed that Ukrainians arriving in Scotland from either of the two visa schemes will be able to access NHS services at no charge on the same basis as people living in Scotland. Additionally, they will also meet residency conditions for Scottish social security benefits, meaning that they will have immediate access to benefits such as Scottish Child Payment and Child Disability Payment.

The UK Government has confirmed that Ukrainians arriving in Scotland from either of the two visa schemes will have immediate access to welfare support, including:

- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit
- Personal Independence Payment
- Child Disability Living Allowance
- Carers Allowance
- Attendance Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Jobseekers Allowance