

## ECOSOC

### **Protecting Ukrainian Refugees Educational Rights.**

#### **Committee background**

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The current crisis in Ukraine has created the greatest refugee surge to OECD countries since World War II. Since the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation began in February 2022, it led to over 5.3 million refugees across Europe.

The countries with the most refugees are Germany with 915.000, Spain 101.977, Italy 98.000, Czech Republic 404.839, and Turkey 145.000.

United Nations estimated that nearly one Ukrainian child per second had become a refugee. This translated to over two million children by the end of March. This extraordinary number is creating major challenges for schools in countries receiving refugees, who in addition to needing ongoing education, are also likely to be suffering from war-induced trauma. In particular, the challenge of support falls on teachers in host countries, who may not have training to teach children who do not speak the language of instruction and who may require trauma counselling. Safety, shelter, nutrition, and medical needs have long been recognized as essential needs of refugees.

For students, the continuation of education is a critical need. It can provide a sense of routine and security in a time of uncertainty and chaos. Equally important,

education is required to provide students with career opportunities as they reach adulthood. Academic support is often not sufficient to provide refugee students with what they need to reach their potential.

Academic support is often not sufficient to provide refugee students with what they need to reach their potential. Given the highly traumatic experiences they may have encountered, refugee students are likely in need of emotional support and may also benefit from trauma counselling. As many teachers have not had sufficient training in these areas, it is essential to provide them with opportunities for professional learning and to provide other professional resources so that teachers are not expected to deliver services for which they are not trained (such as psychological counselling).

The nations must try their best to solve this new problem, especially European countries, to provide aid for those affected in this conflict, focusing on the education of Ukrainian refugees, a basic human right any person should have.

## Bibliography

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