## The EU Temporary Protection Directive

From 4th March 2022, The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) applies to all Ukrainian citizens arriving in Ireland.

Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin.

The Directive grants a special status to Ukrainian citizens, providing them with immediate access to many rights on a par with EU citizens, such as:

· a residence permit for the entire duration of the protection (which can last from one year to three years)

· appropriate information on temporary protection

· access to employment

· access to accommodation or housing

· access to social welfare or means of subsistence

· access to medical treatment

· access to education for minors

· opportunities for families to reunite in certain circumstances, and

· guarantees for access to the normal asylum procedure.

The Temporary Protection Directive applies equally to all Ukrainian citizens **and** their immediate family members. Immediate family members may be of any nationality, and entitlements under the Directive apply to all family members.

## What happens today when a Ukrainian citizen arrives seeking protection under the Temporary Protection Directive?

Ukrainian citizens arriving in lreland may do so visa-free. They have 90 days in which to regularise their status here (i.e. claim Temporary Protection).

From 6th March any persons travelling to Ireland no longer need to complete a Passenger Locator Form or to have proof of vaccination, recovery or a test result. This applies equally to Ukrainian citizens.

In Dublin Airport, where the vast majority of arrivals will enter the State, Ukrainian individuals and families wishing to avail of Temporary Protection should make themselves known to Immigration Officers who will greet them at passport inspection.

Officials from the Department of Equality and Integration, the Department of Justice and the Department of Social Protection are at the airport. These officials will greet the individual/family and provide assistance and information in English, Ukrainian and Russian, or other languages as necessary.

All communications will be handled sensitively and will be trauma-informed. There is a comfortable waiting area at Dublin Airport, with food available.

Those who are in immediate need of accommodation will be brought to the nearest suitable accommodation centre operated by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS).

Those who are here to join family members or friends already living in Ireland are free to do so. All Ukrainian citizens have free movement throughout the European Union.

In other ports of entry to the State, similar arrangements are being put in place. In all cases, Ukrainian nationals arriving should make themselves known to Immigration Officers in the first instance.

Those who choose to enter the State initially independently may at any point on a later date make contact the International Protection Accommodations Service to seek supports and accommodation.

|  |
| --- |
| *Useful Links and Contacts*  Department of Justice FAQs for Ukrainian citizens and their families arriving or intending to travel to Ireland  https://www.irishimmigration.ie/faqs-for-ukraine-nationals-and-residents-of-ukraine  International Protection Office, Department of Justice  Phone: +353 1 602 8000 Email: info@ipo.gov.ie  International Protection Accommodation Service, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth - Requests for Assistance  ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie  Embassy of Ukraine in Ireland  16 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. D04 NY31  Phone 00353 (0) 1 668 5189. |

## What kind of supports can Ukrainians expect to receive once they have arrived and initially settled?

### Healthcare

The Department of Health and the HSE are working together to coordinate the provision of health care services for Ukrainian refugees granted Temporary Protection status.

The HSE is translating its guide to health care services for refugees and migrants into Ukrainian and Russian. Multilingual resources on specific health needs will also be provided, including Covid-19. These resources will be available on the dedicated HSE webpage (link available below).

The HSE will provide a health needs assessment for all new arrivals, including public health measures arising from Covid-19. The assessment will include rapid access to basic priority GP / primary care for Ukrainian refugees in hotels/ communities. The GP primary care service will provide ongoing clinical care of priority medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic illness, plus acute care / triage of illnesses.

The provision of primary health care services will align with the processing and reception facilities put in place for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Ireland, under the governance of the Department of Justice and other relevant departments.

Refugees holding temporary protection status will be entitled to apply for a medical card order to access primary care services for each adult and child dependents.

Ireland provides universal access to community health care services for children up to 18 years and a medical card is not required for children to access these supports. Furthermore, it is noted that a medical card is not required for the public to access acute hospital services in Ireland.

Additional health supports will be provided where required, for mental health issues and to support people who have suffered trauma. The specific health needs of vulnerable groups will be addressed (children under 5, over 65/70s, pregnant and breast-feeding women, people with major illnesses, unaccompanied minors). COVID vaccinations will be provided where this is required.

### Social Protection

Ukrainian citizens and all those fleeing Ukraine are covered by the Temporary Protection Directive. The Government of Ireland will provide support and services to assist individuals and families get established safely and live independently once they arrive.

All Ukrainians who apply will be issued with a PPS Number to allow them receive payments from the State.

Ukrainians are being advised to go to the closest Intreo Centres to where they initially settle. To obtain a PPSN, they must bring the relevant letter issued by the Department of Justice confirming their status along with a form of identification such as a Ukrainian National Identity Card, a Ukrainian Passport, or another form of identification.

All adults and children may receive a PPSN. At present, only applications made in person will be processed.

An income support called the Supplementary Welfare Allowance will be provided. This is a weekly social welfare payment and is also paid for adult and child dependants.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supplementary Welfare Allowance rates Age** | **Maximum personal rate** | **Increase for an adult dependant** | **Increase for a child dependant** |
| **Aged 25 and over** | €206 | €138 | €40 for a child aged under 12 |
| **Aged 18-24 and living independently** | €206 | €138 | €48 for a child aged 12 or over |
| **Aged 18-24 and not living independently** | €117.70 | €117.70 | People aged 18-24 with children qualify for the maximum personal rate of €206 |

### Child Benefit

Child Benefit will be paid to parents or guardians for each child aged under 16 years. Child Benefit is €140 a month for each child. It is paid on the first Tuesday of every month.

Child Benefit is also paid for children aged 16 and 17 if they are in full-time education or full-time training or have a disability and cannot support themselves.

#### Payment

Department of Social Protection income supports will be paid weekly into a local Post Office. Child Benefit will also be paid into a local Post Office.

### Bank Account

Ukrainian citizens may open a bank account with one of the main Irish banks or with An Post.

Applicants will be required to provide at least one document as proof of identity and another document as proof as address. Proof of identity can be either a passport or a Ukrainian Identity Card.

A proof of residence document letter may be provided by the Centre Manager of an IPAS Accommodation Centre, for those staying in State provided accommodation.

For those not residing in IPAS accommodation, Banks and An Post will be able to offer guidance.

### Education

The Department of Education will work in tandem with all relevant authorities, education partners and school communities to ensure Ukrainian children of school-going age arriving are provided with access to appropriate supports to allow them to continue their education in Ireland.

Tusla Education Support Service can assist Ukrainians to find a school for their child/children

The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) has developed materials for schools to assist them in supporting children of Ukrainian heritage and others who may be experiencing distress in relation to current events.

Schools are provided with supports for children for whom English is not their first language and with access to wellbeing supports and resources, including, where appropriate, to support from psychologists from the National Educational Psychological Service.

### Employment

Under the Temporary Protection Directive, all Ukrainians have the right to work in Ireland on the same basis as any EU citizen. A PPS number will be needed and the procedure to obtain one is set out above.

|  |
| --- |
| *Useful Links and Contacts*    Immediate Healthcare advice and support  HSE Live: www.hse.ie or via phone on 00 353 1 240 8787    HSE multilingual resources web portal  https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/about-social-inclusion/translation-hub/multilingual-resources-and-translated-material/    Information on Social Welfare entitlements in English, Ukrainian and Russian  https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/abf3e-social-welfare-supports-for-ukrainian-citizens-arriving-in-ireland-under-the-temporary-protection-directive/    www.gov.ie/DSP/Ukraine    Tusla Education Welfare Service  https://www.tusla.ie/tess/get-in-touch/#EWO |