

Protections for Ukrainians

April 2025

What is the situation in Ukraine?

Ukraine is one of the largest displacement crises in the world after millions of people fled their homes following the start of the full-scale Russian invasion on February 24, 2022. The largest land war in Europe since World War II is now in its fourth year.

Currently, about 3.7 million people are displaced within Ukraine and another 6.9 million are now outside of Ukraine, according to the [UN Refugee Agency](#). Most of this population, 6.3 million people, have sought refuge elsewhere in Europe, particularly in neighboring countries like Poland.

How has the United States welcomed Ukrainians?

In April 2022, the U.S. government launched a parole-sponsorship program called Uniting for Ukraine (U4U). U.S.-based sponsors could apply on behalf of certain Ukrainian nationals to come to the United States. Through the vetting and processing of these applications, Ukrainians could receive travel authorization to the United States and then be granted humanitarian parole on a case-by-case basis to stay in the United States for up to two years.

While some Ukrainians came to the United States before U4U—or have since been admitted under the refugee program as refugees—the U4U program has served as the primary humanitarian pathway to the United States for Ukrainians during the war.

What is parole?

[Parole](#), or humanitarian parole, is admission and entry to stay in the United States for a non-citizen. It is a temporary immigration benefit that does not confer access to another more durable status.

Can Ukrainians still arrive through U4U?

No, not at this time. New U4U applications are not being accepted or processed under [Executive Order 14165](#) called “[Securing Our Borders](#),” which called for the termination of all categorical parole programs. Since late January, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has [paused accepting the form](#) that was needed to apply for U4U. Ukrainians also cannot renew their parole through a re-parole process set up last year.

What about parole for those who are already here through U4U?

For now, grants of parole under U4U have not been terminated across the board. A separate categorical parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV) was terminated through a [Federal Register Notice](#) on March 25. Parole will end for CHNV beneficiaries with active parole on April 24.

Without a population-wide rescission in parole, grants of parole for Ukrainians will remain in effect until they reach their respective expiration dates. On the individual level, grants of parole are at the discretion of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and can be terminated for a variety of reasons.

What happens to those Ukrainians whose parole expires?

Ukrainian parolees whose parole expires while they are in the United States will lose work authorization tied to their parole. Those who have been in the United States less than two years may be subject to expedited removal unless they qualify for another type of protection.

What other humanitarian statuses may Ukrainians be eligible for?

Ukrainians who have been present in the United States since October 20, 2023, should qualify for [Temporary Protected Status](#). TPS can provide work authorization and protection from removal for nationals of countries affected by war, disasters, or other unsafe conditions. Ukrainians can be granted TPS in addition to an active grant of parole.

Ukrainians can also apply for asylum if they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country.

Are TPS or asylum sufficient to protect the U4U population at large?

Unlikely. Ukrainians who have arrived since the fall of 2023 are not eligible for Temporary Protected Status under the [current designation](#).

Asylum may also not be a suitable pathway to a durable status for many Ukrainians since they would need to demonstrate that they face an individualized risk of persecution in Ukraine— a greater standard that goes beyond the general state of the war and humanitarian situation in Ukraine. There is also a significant backlog of asylum applications in the United States.

What can Congress do to protect Ukrainians?

The *Protecting our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act* is a bipartisan bill in Congress that would provide temporary guest status to Ukrainians who have arrived under U4U. Ukrainians would also remain work-authorized under this status in order to continue working legally in the United States. The temporary guest status would be offered to Ukrainians as long as the war or other unsafe conditions in Ukraine continue. The bill has been introduced in both the Senate ([S.696](#)) and the House ([H.R. 2118](#)).

What can you do to advocate for Ukrainians?

- Sign up for [Global Refuge materials, webinars, and alerts](#) to stay informed.
- Use this [action alert](#) to email your lawmakers about the *Protecting our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act*.
- Share your personal story with your local Congressional office to explain why this issue matters to you. Reach out to advocacy@globalrefuge.org if you'd like help setting up a meeting with Congressional staff about S.696/H.R. 2118 or another issue affecting Ukrainian newcomers.

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