

36 organisations welcome EU decision to extend temporary protection for refugees fleeing Ukraine

36 humanitarian, human rights, and refugee rights organisations welcome [the decision of the Justice and Home Affairs Council](#) of the European Union to extend the Temporary Protection Directive for refugees fleeing Ukraine for an additional year, until 4 March 2025.

This is a positive step, continuing to provide a lifeline for those displaced by the war, and offering them a chance to rebuild their lives by granting continued rights to access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and employment.

The organisations urge the EU and its Member States to work together in ensuring these rights are enjoyed in practice.

For example, a worryingly high number of children from Ukraine who have fled to neighbouring countries are not in school. In Poland, which hosts the highest number of refugees fleeing Ukraine, 56 per cent of children who had fled the country were not studying in Polish schools at the end of the last school year. In Romania, the figure of refugee children from Ukraine attending school is as low as 10 per cent¹.

“The extension of the Temporary Protection Directive today is both welcome and necessary. But it is not sufficient: ensuring all children from Ukraine are in school, that all refugees have a safe home and feel included in their host societies requires dedicated effort and sustained resourcing.” said Willy Bergogne, Director of Save the Children Europe.

The organisations also highlighted the need to establish longer-term protections for refugees fleeing Ukraine, calling upon the EU and its Member States to explore sustainable solutions that go beyond the immediate extension period.

“Refugees we speak to face any number of uncertainties, first and foremost when it will be safe to return to Ukraine. EU member states should urgently seek to remove one additional source of uncertainty – their protections in the EU at the end of the TPD extension in March 2025”, said Imogen Sudbery, IRC’s Senior Advocacy Director for Europe.

Lastly, the organisations call for the Temporary Protection Directive to be applied to all refugees fleeing Ukraine, to limit discrimination of vulnerable groups such as third-country nationals, Roma refugees, stateless persons, and people who were seeking asylum or holding international protection status in Ukraine.

The display of unity and compassion in extending protection for refugees from Ukraine is notably absent in the ongoing negotiations surrounding the Migration and Asylum Pact. The organisations call upon EU institutions to approach the Pact negotiations with the same spirit of humanity as the TPD, recognizing that refugees, regardless of their country of origin, deserve equal levels of solidarity, protection and care.

¹ [Prioritizing school enrolments for Ukraine refugee children in Moldova, Poland and Romania - September 2023 - Moldova | ReliefWeb](#)

Signatories

- Save the Children
- International Rescue Committee
- Oxfam
- HelpAge International
- HIAS Europe
- CCME (Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe)
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
- Child Circle
- Plan International
- Danish Refugee Council
- Association for Legal Intervention (SIP)
- European Evangelical Alliance (EEA)
- CARE International
- European Network on Statelessness
- Amnesty International
- Critical Education Association (SEK), Poland
- Kaleidoscope of Cultures, Poland
- Right to Protection, Ukraine
- Polish Migration Forum Foundation (PFM)
- Migration Consortium, Poland
- Nomada Association, Poland
- OVUM Association, Poland
- Salam Lab (Stowarzyszenie Laboratorium Działań dla Pokoju)
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
- Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights (A.A.D.H.)
- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Irish Refugee Council
- SOS Children's Villages International
- Homo Faber Association
- ICMC Europe/Share Network
- Action against Hunger
- Sunflower Care e.V.
- Terre des Hommes International Federation
- BIPoC Ukraine and friends in germany
- ELIL (European Lawyers in Lesvos)
- Ukr Dim e.V.