

HELP US RESETTLE 1,000 REFUGEES BY EASTER

Homes for Ukrainians - Humanitarian Sponsorship Scheme

Briefing for Strategic Partners in the UK - 14.03.22



WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP URGENTLY

Citizens UK is looking for 20 strategic partners to help resettle 1,000 refugees in the UK by Easter.

The Government's new 'Homes for Ukrainians' Humanitarian Sponsorship Scheme creates an opportunity for civil society to mobilise the goodwill we have seen in response to the war and turn that into practical action. An unlimited number of Ukrainian refugees will be allowed to come to the UK through this scheme – if they have a sponsor to provide accommodation and offer them a warm welcome in their community. Unless they have a sponsor, no-one without family already here will be able to come.

The UK has lagged behind European countries in offering sanctuary, and so this is our opportunity to respond to the crisis with speed and at scale. Without co-ordinated action, numbers will remain small.

We are seeking 20 organisations willing to work with us to resettle a coachload of 50 Ukrainian refugees each (finding 10 local sponsors from within their organisation/network who could look after a family each) in time for Easter (April 17th) 2022.

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- More than two million people have now fled Ukraine because of the Russian invasion, according to the United Nations.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has called it the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War Two.
- Most refugees have fled to Poland (1.5 million) and other nearby countries. Only about 1,000 visas have been issued by the UK so far.

ABOUT THE HOMES FOR UKRAINIANS SCHEME

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- The Scheme will be open for applications from 18th March 2022
- The Scheme is open-ended and uncapped – as many can come as there are sponsors
- Eligibility: Any Ukrainian & anyone residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1st January 2022
- Anyone in the UK can apply to be a Sponsor
- The process will be quick and simple.

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

- Refugees/Sponsors will need to arrange their travel to the UK
- Refugees will be given an initial 6-month visa which can be extended to 3 years
- Able to work & access benefits & services immediately
- Local authorities funded to provide backstop.

ROLE OF SPONSOR

- Offer housing rent-free for 6 months (can be a room in a home)
- Identify Ukrainian refugee(s) to resettle
- Submit a short application form (including DBS Check)
- Welcome the refugees & help them integrate
- Receive £350 per month.

CITIZENS UK'S PLAN TO RESETTLE 1,000 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES BY EASTER

IDENTIFY 20 PARTNERS

Citizens UK is focusing on **large-scale resettlement** to make the biggest difference possible. We can support 20 larger organisations to resettle 50 Ukrainians each. These partners could be Diocese, Universities, Multi-Academy Trusts, Unions, businesses or Citizen UK alliances.

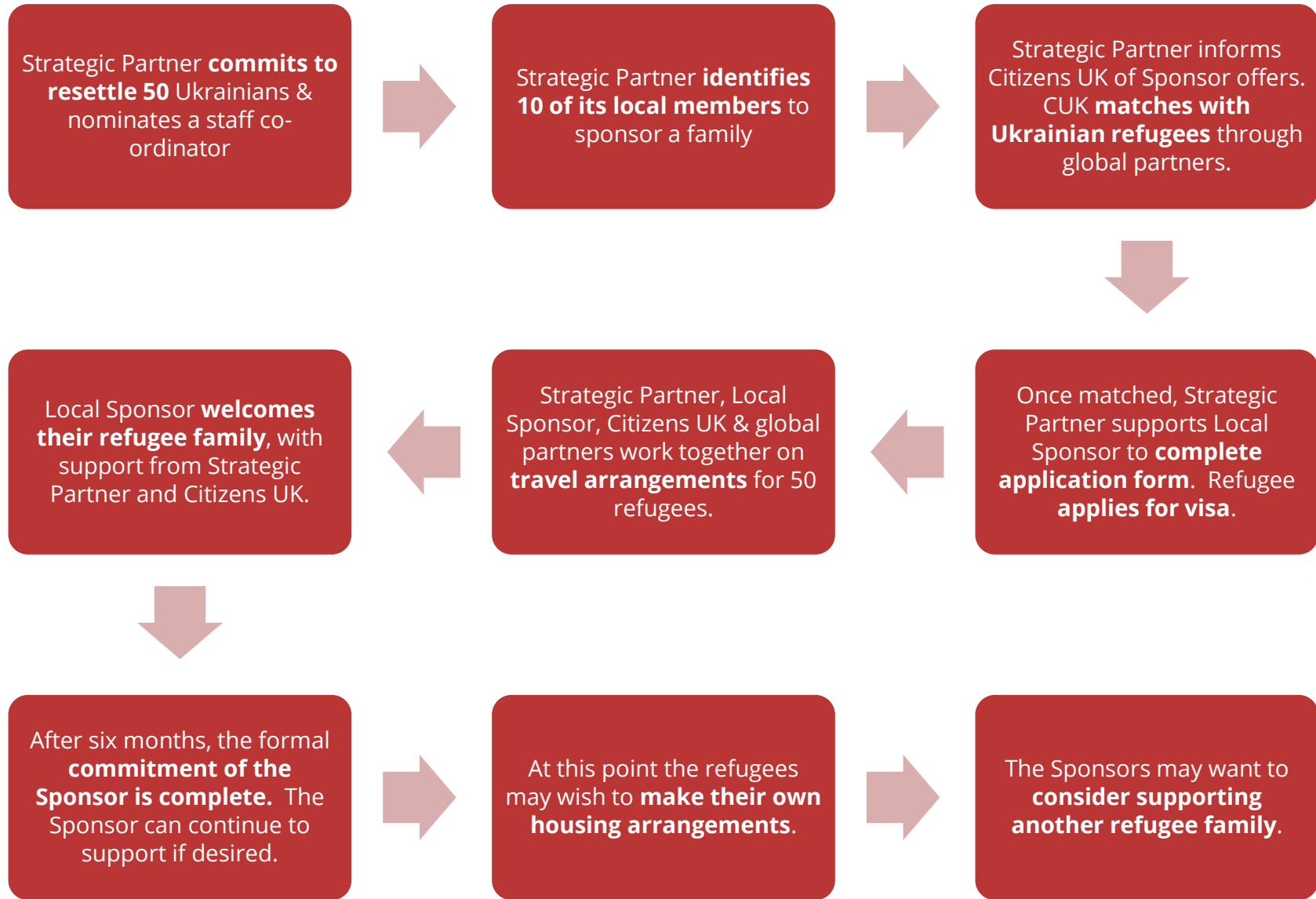
MATCH 1,000 REFUGEES

It is unlikely that many local sponsors will know any Ukrainians to sponsor. We are working with partner organisations in Ukraine & the region to **identify eligible refugees – and match them up**. Scale is vital - our partners want to work with us if we can help large numbers of people.

ARRANGE TRAVEL TO UK

Travel to the UK is not arranged or funded by the Government – it is down to the refugee, or the Sponsor. Through our global partners we will help with the logistics of ensuring refugees are able to arrive in the UK safely, and possibly also with funding if needed.

HOW WILL OUR PLAN WORK?



Strategic Partner

Likely to be a larger organisation with central staff and multiple local branches, easily capable of resettling 50 refugees across its network. E.g. Diocese, University, Multi-Academy Trust, UK-wide business.

Local Sponsor

Local branch of Strategic Partner, that takes responsibility for one family. E.g. parish, department, local school, branch.

Global Partner

Organisation working with Ukrainian refugees in the region, who can help with identification and travel logistics.



HOW WE WILL HELP STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- **SUPPORT YOU THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS**

Citizens UK's 'Sponsor Refugees' project is the largest Lead & Principal Sponsor under the existing Community Sponsorship Scheme. Our specialist staff can support you step-by-step.

- **HELP TO RECRUIT SPONSORS IN YOUR NETWORK**

We will expect Strategic Partners to recruit enough local sponsors in their network to resettle 50 refugees. We can help with advice & resources.

- **BUILD CAPACITY TO SUPPORT LOCAL SPONSORS**

We will ask each Strategic Partner to deploy some staff capacity to co-ordinate local sponsors in your network. We will train those staff.

- **MATCH YOUR LOCAL SPONSORS WITH REFUGEES**

Our global partners will help identify eligible Ukrainian refugees if you do not have existing Ukrainians to sponsor.

- **ADVISE ON ARRANGING TRAVEL TO THE UK**

Our global partners can help advise on travel arrangements and logistics.

- **ONGOING TRAINING & ADVICE**

We organise regular advice and training sessions, and can provide mentors.



**Sponsor
Refugees**

Since 2016, Citizens UK's Sponsor Refugees project has helped dozens of communities to resettle refugees.

"We received nothing but positivity and support from the local community. So many other groups, from church groups to university groups to community groups all wanted to help us."

"We went through all the applications, found housing, which we kitted out completely with donations. People were so generous."

Catherine Griffiths from Croeso Menai, a Community Sponsorship Group supported by Sponsor Refugees

HOW DO WE GET INVOLVED?

1. Time is of the essence – Easter is only a month away. If you are interested in being a Strategic Partner then contact Citizens UK to set up a 1-2-1 briefing to find out more;
2. Sign up for our Zoom briefing on the new scheme with the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative on Monday 21st March at 15:00;
3. Join our campaign to resettle 1,000 Ukrainian refugees by Easter and sign up as a Strategic Partner;
4. Forward this on to other potential strategic partners who might be willing to commit to resettle 50 refugees.

Contact Jonathan Cox, Deputy Director, Citizens UK
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or Tim Finch, timaafinch@gmail.com; 07595 920899

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We are not helpless.

“The **‘Homes for Ukrainians’ scheme** is an incredible opportunity to channel the outpouring of support for Ukrainians into practical action at a local level – and adds another important route, alongside asylum and resettlement, for those fleeing persecution to find sanctuary in the UK.”

“**There is no better way to overcome our feelings of helplessness than to make a refugee family welcome** in our local community, and we see here a possible blueprint for welcoming not just Ukrainians, but other refugees in the future too.”

“As the largest Lead Sponsor in the existing Community Sponsorship Scheme, Citizens UK will be encouraging its 500 members, consisting of faith, education and civil society organisations, as well as our partner businesses, to participate in this scheme. **We will offer the support of our specialist Sponsor Refugees team to help make sure that local people are equipped for the task** of offering a warm welcome and getting the new arrivals back on their feet.”

“The scale of the refugee crisis is enormous, but **together we can make a difference**. We’ll be doing our bit by seeking to resettle as many Ukrainian refugees as possible through our networks by Easter.”

Matthew Bolton, Executive Director, Citizens UK.