

Citizens UK Sponsorship Scheme

The Diocese of Exeter is working with the charity [Citizens UK](#) to act as a key sponsor in Devon to co-ordinate providing homes for Ukrainian refugees and help ensure ongoing community support. Citizens UK has partnered with [Ukrainian Sponsorship Pathway UK](#), which is working in Poland to identify Ukrainian refugees wishing to travel to the UK.

Sign-Up To Be A Host

If you would like to express your interest in providing a home, please [fill out this form](#).

If you have already filled out an expression of interest form you will be emailed a second, more detailed, form to complete. You will also be asked to write a welcome note which will be shared with the family/individual you are matched with. If you have not received an email requesting further information within seven days, please contact our Ukraine support team: [Email us](#).

What Happens Next?

Citizens UK will be sending us the details of Ukrainian refugees who have indicated they would like to come to South West England. We will then be matching refugees with host families and will notify you if you have been matched. We do not know at this stage how many Ukrainian refugees will want to come to the South West. This is a unique and fast-moving situation, so please bear with us as we do the work to match refugees with host families.

What Happens Once You Have Been Matched?

Once you have been matched with a Ukrainian individual or family, you will need to liaise with them to complete the [UK Government visa application form](#). When you have completed the form, your local authority will be alerted and will contact you to ask you to complete a safeguarding DBS form. They will also carry out a home check. It is worth you looking at your local authority website for more detailed information.

[Tips for filling in a Ukraine Visa Application](#)

Citizens UK recommends you set-up a local welcome team to support you as a host. Learn more here: [Citizens UK Hosts Briefing](#)

Travel to Devon

We have a fundraising appeal to pay for travel for Ukrainians coming to Devon as part of our Citizens UK sponsorship scheme. If you have arranged a match independently, the [refugee support charity Opora](#) has been very helpful in arranging travel and paying for it.

Safeguarding considerations

All refugees arriving from Ukraine will be suffering a degree of trauma, and are at high risk of exploitation, especially women and children. Good safeguarding practice is essential in ensuring that we provide the safe environments needed and expected. The Clewer Initiative have some great resources on [understanding modern slavery and exploitation](#).

You can read the GLAA's information on workers rights in [English here](#) and [Ukrainian here](#).

Ongoing Support

[Useful Information for Host Families \(Citizens UK briefing for hosts\)](#).

Citizens UK will have a Zoom support session every Friday lunchtime. You will be sent details about how to join this once you have signed-up as a host family.

The [Diocese of Exeter Community Facebook Group](#) is a good place to ask questions, request local support and share information.

If you are hosting a Ukrainian family here is an introductory 3 week course to the Ukrainian language: [Exeter University Ukrainian Language Courses](#). (Scroll through the languages to Ukrainian).

The Methodist Church have a really useful and comprehensive [toolkit for churches](#) with lots of links to further resources.

The Church of England have a [Ukraine response page](#) with prayer guidance and practical suggestions.

The Government have released a [FAQ page](#) for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Diocese of Exeter support: We will be holding information webinars for host families and will continue to offer pastoral support and encourage the setting-up of local support groups.