

David Stack shared a link.



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I'm seeing lots of posts from anxious people about whether they are following the right process. The problem is..... as far as I know, no one has published what the end to end process is for sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee and getting them here safely.

So, I thought it would be useful to share from my own experience as to what we have done. Please feel free to add to this as it is just my view.

1. You need to start the whole thing off by registering your interest for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The link is here : <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>
2. There is no "matching" service, so you need to find the Ukrainians you want to help yourself. Facebook Pages like this one are excellent, but there are also lots of other websites doing similar things (shelter4ua.com for example)
3. Talk to the people you have selected to sponsor and make sure there is a good mutual match.
4. If everyone is happy, you then need to apply for the VISA's (in partnership with the Ukrainian). To the best of my knowledge, you need to do one visa application for every person, including children. So for a family of four, you need to do four visa applications. I have seen differing advice to this, but this is what it says on the forms.
5. Apply for the VISAs here > <https://apply.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/has..>
6. The forms are arduous, repetitive, badly designed and will make you want to stick pins in your eyes. However, stick with it as if it saves one family, it will be worth it. Your first form will take about 1.5 hours to complete but you will get quicker on any additional ones.
7. At the end, you will get directed to a third party site, where you must upload a PDF version on the relevant documents. Make sure your ukraininan refugee has given you copies of their passports etc. It is likely that they may be a photo in JPG format, so you will need to convert them to PDF. Lots of free software can do this (some links in earlier posts)
8. Upload the documents and complete. You will see the word "submitted" in the top right of the screen.
9. If you return back to the original visa website, it may say that you still have additional steps to do. This is download a document or a checklist. Download both and keep safe. Open the visa application and make sure it has a submitted date on it and an application number.
10. You are done for now! Eventually you or your Ukrainian will receive an email from Sheffield UKVI office saying that they have received the application. Although I have submitted 4 at the same time, at the time of writing, I have only received 3 back!
11. This appears to trigger the local authority to come into play. They phoned me directly and said they would be doing a home inspection, which is scheduled for tomorrow.
12. They have sent us a link for all adults in the household to complete a DBS check. Even though we both hold them already for the work we do, you need to do it again!
13. So, that's as far as we have got so far! If anyone is further down the line than this, please feel free to add on.....

If only the British government had written a nice process out like this before they launched the scheme, deployed a simple matching tool and a portal where you can check your own visa application status.....ho hum!