

**February 2023**

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022, millions of Ukrainians have fled their country, the vast majority of them to a European Union (EU) Member State. The EU responded by providing Ukrainians with immediate protection and by giving humanitarian assistance to those affected by the war, both in and outside Ukraine. Women, children, Roma people, people with disabilities and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) community are at particular risk of violence and exploitation. This topical digest offers a sample of recent publications by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) on the EU's humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

The EU's humanitarian response

One year of temporary protection for people displaced from Ukraine

'At a glance' note by Katrien Luyten, EPRS, February 2023

In response to the mass arrivals of refugees fleeing Russian aggression, the EU moved swiftly to grant Union-wide temporary protection to people arriving from Ukraine. By the end of December 2022, 3.8 million non-EU citizens who had fled Ukraine were benefiting from temporary protection. The EU's first-ever activation of the Temporary Protection Directive has generally had a very positive response, as it has prevented extreme pressure on national asylum systems and offered security to the people affected.

2022 Sakharov Prize laureate: The brave people of Ukraine

'At a glance' note by Jakub Przetacznik, EPRS, December 2022

Respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights is a core value of the EU, which it promotes through its policies. The European Parliament's Sakharov Prize honours the work of those who stand up for these freedoms and rights. With peace and human rights under increased attack today, the prize remains as relevant as ever. The 2022 prize was awarded to the people of Ukraine, represented by their president, elected leaders, and civil society organisations, who are fighting hard and have sacrificed so much to protect their country from Russia's war of aggression.

Russia's war on Ukraine: People with disabilities

'At a glance' note by Micaela Del Monte and Marie Lecerf, EPRS, November 2022

The chaos generated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased the risk of violence and exploitation exponentially, especially for the most vulnerable people, such as those with disabilities. Estimates show that around 2.7 million people with disabilities in Ukraine face a disproportionate risk of violence or death, and lack access to medical support; this number will most likely increase as the conflict goes on. Since the war began, the European Parliament has been drawing attention to the needs of people with disabilities.

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World Refugee Day: EU solidarity with Ukraine

'At a glance' note by Anita Orav, EPRS, June 2022

In 2022, following Russia's war on Ukraine, Europe is facing a large new wave of refugees in search of peace and security. The EU and its Member States are mobilising support to help people fleeing the war, including through direct humanitarian aid, macro-financial assistance, emergency civil protection assistance, support at the border, and the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive.

Russia's war on Ukraine: The risk of trafficking of human beings

'At a glance' note by Maria-Margarita Mentzeopoulou, EPRS, May 2022

The chaos generated by the conflict has exponentially increased the risk of human trafficking and exploitation, especially of the most vulnerable persons. This At a Glance describes EU action to protect people at risk of trafficking who are fleeing Ukraine.

Russia's war on Ukraine: The situation of children in and outside Ukraine

Briefing by Micaela Del Monte and Maria-Margarita Mentzelopoulou, EPRS, May 2022

As the humanitarian situation deteriorates, children – who account for almost half of those fleeing Ukraine – are particularly vulnerable. They are at high risk of falling through the cracks in the system, going missing or being subjected to violence. This briefing describes the specific risks that these minors are facing and what the EU is doing to protect them.

Russia's war on Ukraine: The situation of Roma people fleeing Ukraine

'At a glance' note by Marie Lecerf, EPRS, May 2022

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced millions of people, including Ukrainian Roma, to seek shelter in neighbouring countries. Roma fleeing Ukraine often face discrimination, segregation, deprivation and prejudice. This 'at a glance' note focuses on international and EU efforts to help and protect Roma people in and outside Ukraine.

Russia's war on Ukraine: The situation of LGBTI people

'At a glance' note by David De Groot and Micaela Del Monte, EPRS, May 2022

The chaos engendered by the war in Ukraine is increasing the risk of violence and exploitation exponentially, in particular for the most vulnerable, including members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) community. This 'at a glance' note describes the specific risks that Ukrainian LGBTI people are facing and the response of the European Parliament.

Russia's war on Ukraine: EU cohesion policy support for refugees

'At a glance' note by Christiaan Van Lierop, EPRS, April 2022

As millions flee war-torn Ukraine, Europe is currently witnessing its largest movement of refugees since World War II. With cohesion policy having proved effective in mobilising emergency support during the coronavirus crisis, the European Commission has put forward two proposals that seek to adapt cohesion policy rules to facilitate the rapid rollout of funding to help Member States host Ukrainian refugees.

Russia's war on Ukraine: A gender-sensitive humanitarian response

'At a glance' note by Rosamund Shreeves, EPRS, March 2022

In complex emergency situations, a gender perspective is vital in order to take into account the specific needs of women and men and the different risks to which they are exposed. Humanitarian actors are calling for a gender-sensitive response to the Ukraine crisis, to help tackle barriers to accessing vital services, address increased risks of gender-based violence and facilitate the reception and integration of refugees.

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Russia's war on Ukraine: Assisting Ukrainians at the EU's borders

'At a glance' note by Costica Dumbrava, EPRS, March 2022

The EU and its Member States have adopted measures to help people, mostly women and children, fleeing Russian aggression, while ensuring proper management of the EU's external borders. These measures include a proposal to grant EU-wide temporary protection to people arriving from Ukraine, guidelines to assist border guards carrying out checks at the EU-Ukraine borders, and support from specialised EU agencies.

Ukrainian students in the EU

'At a glance' note by Ivana Katsarova, EPRS, March 2022

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused vast displacement of people within the country, as well as across EU borders. While the annexation of Crimea had a negative impact on the country's education system, recent events have added additional strain. Outbound student mobility was already substantial in recent years, but it has accelerated even further since the Crimean conflict began. After doubling from some 25 000 to nearly 50 000 between 2007 and 2014, the number of Ukrainian students abroad has since skyrocketed by another 54 % to around 78 000 in 2019.

Temporary Protection Directive

Briefing by Katrien Luyten, EPRS, March 2022

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission swiftly decided to grant EU-wide temporary protection to people arriving from Ukraine. The Temporary Protection Directive (Directive 2001/55/EC) - invoked for the first time ever - enables EU Member States to move rapidly to offer protection and rights to people in need of immediate protection and to avoid overwhelming national asylum systems in cases of mass arrivals of displaced persons.

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