Enabling access to health services, social care and education in accordance with Council Directive 2001/55/EC and Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 helps reduce the vulnerability of children fleeing Ukraine. The Commission issued operational guidelines on the implementation of this Decision and a Communication on Welcoming those fleeing war in Ukraine, which set out prevention and assistance measures. A dedicated Commission webpage provides information to persons fleeing Ukraine, including advice on the protection of children and on how to avoid becoming victims of trafficking.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the Commission has worked on wide-ranging measures to enhance awareness raising, prevention and law enforcement response, and to ensure early identification, support and protection of victims. The Commission presented a 10-Point Plan for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war from Ukraine, which includes a Common Anti-trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking and support potential victims, as well as common solutions to protect children on the move with specific attention to the needs of children with disabilities, unaccompanied minors and separated children.

The Anti-Trafficking Directive and the national laws transposing it, remain applicable also to persons fleeing Ukraine. The Directive provides a framework to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect victims, in particular children and unaccompanied minors. Moreover, the Directive on combating child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation includes

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4. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Welcoming those fleeing war in Ukraine: Readying Europe to meet the needs, COM(2022) 131 final of 23 March 2022.
targeted provisions on the prevention of abuse of children and support, including to children in migration and other vulnerable situations.