

# HOSTING REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE



# IN GENEVA

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## **Who is this guide for?**

People who would like to host people escaping from Ukraine.

People who can't host but would like to help hosts.

This guide was written based on materials and experiences of Polish non-profits working with Ukrainian refugees.

The chapters covering legal, admin, and psychological aspects were consulted with experts - Geneva-based lawyers, social workers, info provided by Hospice General.

The situation is nevertheless dynamic, and some information may not be up to date when you read it.

Don't worry, the guide provides links and contacts to people and institutions that can guide you in the administrative and legal maze.

# **HOSTING REFUGEES**

## **preparation**

First of all, please download and read the guide for hosts written by a psychologist and psychotraumatologist, Katarzyna Podleska for the Human Doc Foundation.

**[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)**

**It is a must-read for all hosts.**

This text will guide you through many aspects of hosting refugees. It will tell you about some aspects of preparing your place and will prepare you mentally for some eventual challenges.

**The text was written for people in Poland  
but it applies to hosts worldwide.**

# HOSTING REFUGEES

## posting an ad

Now that you are certain about your decision to host, how to find families in need?

Here are several links:

[CAMPAX.ORG](#)

[SHELTER4UA.COM](#)

[UKRAINE TAKES SHELTER](#)

[HOST 4 UKRAINE](#)

[I CAN HELP - HOST](#)

[UNITED FOR U](#)

[SWITZERLAND WITH UKRAINE - FB](#)

[OSAR](#)

[CARITAS](#)

## **HOSTING REFUGEES**

### **equipment**

You posted your place and are waiting for people to apply and come. Now is the time to prepare. Many precious tips were given in the guide shared on page 5. If you haven't read it yet, do it now.

There are things to buy/get. Some can be second hand, others have to be new - no questions asked.

When it comes to second-hand, there is one golden rule: don't ever offer anyone things you wouldn't like to get yourself (no matter in how bad situation you were).

# HOSTING REFUGEES

## second hand & new

### Second hand:

- clothes (only clean, impeccable condition),
- a pram,
- toys,
- furniture (a cot, a high chair etc).
- hairdryer,
- equipment for their animals,
- books,
- bike/scooter as a free transportation tool.
- bed linen, towels (clean, perfect shape).

### New:

- underwear and socks,
- car seat/booster seat if you don't have a spare one (accident-free).

# **HOSTING REFUGEES**

## **other things to buy**

### **For women:**

- sanitary pads or tampons,
- razor,
- deodorant, shampoo, soap,
- face mask (for Covid protection).

### **For kids (depending on age):**

- diapers,
- formula milk,
- pureed food,
- a welcome toy.

Depending on your financial ability, consider completing more cosmetics: body cream, face cream, mascara. Help women feel good after horrible days and a long journey.



## HOSTING REFUGEES

### admin maze

For Ukrainian refugees, Switzerland has decided to activate the S Permit. It has never been used before.

S Permit is like an accelerated refugee status without waiting and going through a long procedure.

S Permit gives their holders the right to work, provides medical insurance, and opens the way to social aid if needed.

You can check for updated information on this federal [website](#).

To obtain Permit S in Geneva contact [OCPM](#).

Another great thing to note down is the Geneva hotline for refugees - **0800 900 955**,

## **HOSTING REFUGEES**

### **legal help**

Geneva Bar Association (over 1500 lawyers) is ready to help every refugee for free with whatever they need. If you or your invitee have any question you can contact:

**[helpukraine@odage.ch](mailto:helpukraine@odage.ch)**

Don't forget to provide your phone number. A lawyer will be quickly attributed to your case and will be in touch shortly.

Once under the care of Hospice General, people from Ukraine will also get access to free legal advice.

## **HOSTING REFUGEES psychological help**

From the first days of the war, Russian and Ukrainian speaking psychologists started offering their services for free.

To get help, contact the **Geneva hotline 0800 900 945** or get in touch with [freeukraine.ch](https://freeukraine.ch).

If the mental state of your guest is very worrying (no contact, psychosis, etc) call an **ambulance by calling 144**.

## **HOSTING REFUGEES**

### **social aid**

Once your guest obtains Permit S and has no income, they can contact Hospice General.

There, various types of help will be proposed, together with an appointed social assistant.

Hospice General will assess each case and can help with housing, legal help, or offer a card to a special Red Cross supermarket where everything is free.

## HOSTING REFUGEES school

All children will go to Swiss public school. Remember to tell your guests that schools in Geneva are experienced with kids who don't speak French and those with war experiences.

They will probably first go to a special class to learn French.

For school enrollments contact:

- ages 4-15 022 327 04 82;
- ages 16-18 022 388 12 60;
- or [infodip@etat.ge.ch](mailto:infodip@etat.ge.ch)

What materials are needed for school:

- backpack,
- slippers,
- gym clothes and shoes,
- swimming gear.

## **HOSTING REFUGEES**

### **communication**

As everywhere in the world, many people in Ukraine speak English. No doubt, some speak French as well, or your mother tongue whatever it is.

If this is not the case, Google Translate will help.

Be sure to know if they speak Ukrainian, Russian, or both.

For all admin work, Hospice General, Geneva Red Cross and other organizations are already making lists and contacting people that will help with translations.

## **BASIC INFORMATION about Switzerland**

Here's a list of facts that can help them understand what awaits them in Switzerland.

- 4 languages,
- Geneva is multilingual and multinational - it's easy to blend in.
- mountains and lakes everywhere,
- divided into cantons - they differ a lot, even schooling is not exactly the same in each,
- school and school materials are free of charge.
- Uni diploma recognition takes time and maybe problematic depending on the field.
- life is quite expensive but there are ways to happily leave here on a lower income too.
- social aid works well.

# BASIC INFORMATION about Switzerland

This brochure by Geneva authorities is also full of handy information. Hopefully, it will be soon available in Ukrainian and Russian as well.

Download, read and share info with your guest.



**Welcome to Geneva**  
For newly arrived migrants



REPUBLIQUE  
ET CANTON  
DE GENÈVE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra





## **MORE SOON**

Watch out [Parentville.ch](http://Parentville.ch) website - soon another guide for the refugees! In it: how to save money, fun and free places for kids to have fun.