

Committee: **Social, Cultural and Humanitarian**

Topic: **Provide humanitarian and medical assistance to countries hosting Ukrainian refugees**

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Background information:

The Ukraine refugee crisis started shortly before the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and is still ongoing. As of 23rd March 2022, over 3.6 million refugees have left Ukraine while an additional 6.5 million people have been displaced internally within the country. The vast majority of them have fled to countries neighbouring the west of Ukraine. The European Union has decided to grant the refugees the right to stay, work and study for one year in any EU member state of their choosing.

Although the majority of countries in or outside the EU are not directly being affected by the crisis in a major way, it is important to assist countries who have accepted a large number of refugees and as a result of that may suffer from negative consequences. None of the countries to which a large number of Ukrainians have fled was prepared to host such an enormous amount of people. Because of this, the hosting countries might experience a potentially fatal shortage of certain supplies, such as food or sanitary items. Another big issue hosting countries might face is providing housing for the incoming people. Many organisations (especially non-governmental ones) have already begun accepting monetary donations to aid refugees and others affected by the crisis but despite this, some countries affected by the refugee crisis still struggle with providing all the necessary assistance to refugees.

To assist the countries, a number of aspects can be considered:

- **Financial support:** many organisations are already trying to provide help for Ukrainian refugees but they usually don't receive financial support from their governments
- **Providing accommodation:** refugees should be offered a suitable accommodation and housing upon their arrival
- **Spreading awareness:** incoming refugees should be properly informed about their rights in the hosting country
- **Ensuring access to healthcare:** many incoming refugees may be in need of medical assistance, including the treatment of mental health issues

UN involvement:

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has been providing aid to Ukrainian refugees, especially on the borders of Ukraine. So far, the UNHCR has helped to increase access to health services and sanitary facilities. As this crisis began not a long time ago, the United Nations haven't managed to create a resolution that could actively help countries hosting the Ukrainian refugees.

Questions to consider:

- What is your country's approach to accepting refugees?
- Has your country accepted any refugees from Ukraine?

- Has your country provided any help to countries hosting Ukrainian refugees?
- How can your country cooperate with other governments to improve the situation?

Useful resources:

https://www-bbc-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472.amp?amp_gsa=1&_js_v=a9&usqp=mq331AQKKAFQArABIIACAw%3D%3D#amp_tf=From%20%251%24s&aoh=16475024023320&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&share=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.com%2Fnews%2Fworld-60555472

<https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en>

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

Synopsis resources:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-60554998>

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2022/02/28/where-to-donate-to-help-ukrainians/>

<https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/41581-unhcr-helps-improve-reception-and-sanitary-facilities-at-milove-border-crossing-point-in-eastern-ukraine-so-people-can-cross-in-safety-and-dignity.html>

<https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/40693-unhcrs-new-protection-monitoring-tool-helps-inform-humanitarian-and-development-programmes-in-eastern-ukraine.html>

<https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/41297-unhcr-helps-increase-access-to-computerisation.html>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-flash-update-4-18-march-2022>