

Press release

For immediate release

23 May 2022

Anti-trafficking charities launch a new website aimed at keeping Ukrainian refugees safe and stopping exploitation.

A coalition of anti-slavery and human rights groups has launched a new website for Ukrainian refugees in the UK, aimed at keeping them safe from trafficking and helping them adjust to their new home.

www.ukrainianswelcome.org is a “one-stop shop” of useful websites, helplines, and other information – anything from where to get basic travel and housing advice to opening a bank account and understanding your rights as a worker.

Says Andrew Wallis, CEO of anti-slavery charity Unseen, one of the groups behind the initiative: “There are millions of Ukrainian people on the move, many of them with no support network, who are vulnerable to all sorts of exploitation.

“The more information we can give them on how to stay safe in the UK and where to go for support for an entire range of issues, the better. It will stop exploitation.”

www.ukrainianswelcome.org is available in the Ukrainian, English and Russian languages.

It includes links to the Government’s information for displaced Ukrainians.

“It’s vitally important we get this information out there quickly as the situation gets more urgent by the day,” says Andrew Wallis.

“We are already receiving calls from Ukrainian refugees to our [Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline](#). And we are also getting worrying signals from other organisations in Europe regarding the trafficking of displaced Ukrainian people.

“We are urging the main UK mobile network providers to work with us on promoting the website to Ukrainian refugees as they arrive in the UK.

“A straightforward way to do this is for the website to be part of the standard welcome text that any traveller receives when arriving in this country. Already any foreigner registered phone arriving in the UK will get a welcome text from their UK provider detailing charges. What can be so difficult about changing that text for anyone arriving with a phone that is on a Ukrainian network?”

The initiative is funded by [The Freedom Fund](#) and the website developed by [Milk & Tweed](#).

Ends

Notes to editors

For all press enquiries and interviews, contact 0303 040 2888 (out of hours 07943 498239) media@unseenuk.org

About Unseen

Unseen is working towards a world without slavery. We provide safe houses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. We also run the UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline (08000 121 700) and work with communities, businesses, governments, other charities and statutory agencies such as the police and NHS to stamp out slavery for good.

www.unseenuk.org

About the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline **08000 121700**

- The Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline is part of the leading anti-slavery charity Unseen, www.unseenuk.org
- It is confidential and independent, providing information, advice and guidance to potential victims, businesses, statutory agencies such as the NHS and police, and the public about any modern slavery issue.
- The Helpline is free to use, can take calls in more than 200 languages, and operates 24/7, 365 days a year.
- People can also contact the Helpline via the website and the Unseen App.
- The Helpline is funded by grants from trusts, businesses, fellow charities and other organisations, and donations from the general public.

Anti-slavery charities involved in the website

Unseen, Freedom Fund; STOP THE TRAFFIK; Hope for Justice; Justice and Care; Work Rights Centre; Anti-Slavery International; Sophie Hayes Foundation; Medaille Trust; Vita; City Hearts; Human Trafficking Foundation; Ethical Trading Initiative