

KEY JUDGEMENTS



Title: **Trafficking & exploitation of Ukrainian refugees & related matters**

Country/ Location: **Ukraine & Europe**

Issue Number: **008**

Date: **22.12.2022**

INTRODUCTION:

There is no sign of a cessation of hostilities, and the significant danger from a refugee and support for Ukraine perspective appears to be fatigue from host countries, communities and individuals. This may affect economic and military support for Ukraine, in addition to the kind of reception further refugees might expect.

In Ukraine, resilience appears strong with refugees returning and a determination to spend Christmas time there.

Russian attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure, particularly power systems, are highly likely to continue and may lead to further evacuation and a less welcoming environment across borders.

WE ASSESS AS FOLLOWS:

- A)** A small percentage of refugees in the U.K. and across the world have been subject to labour abuse by their hosts, particularly where former seasonal workers from Ukraine have returned to places of employment and combined that with a refugee scheme. Any new wave of evacuees should be made aware of this risk
- B)** There has been a small number of hosts of refugees who are motivated by an intent to sexually exploit refugees, and systems to reduce that risk are not in place. A further wave of evacuees is likely to result in a repetition of this risk of sexual exploitation of a small % of refugees by hosts.
- C)** To reduce their vulnerability to exploitation over time, refugees in the U.K. and Europe need to be able to move on from host accommodation and find rental homes. Without some kind of guarantee process in place, this is all but impossible, even for those refugees who have secured good incomes.
- D)** There is strong potential for a second wave of refugees from Ukraine, especially if there is a renewed Russian offensive.
- E)** There is yet to be any sign of a significant increase of Ukrainian women and men in commercial sexual exploitation across Europe and the U.K.
- F)** Evidence of trafficking of both men and women from Central and South America to Poland and surrounding countries for exploitation has been discovered, and some investigations are now ongoing.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS (What we need to know):

- 1) Information as to any abuse of the hosting initiatives, particularly the U.K. Homes for Ukraine scheme in the agricultural sector.
- 2) Information as to any cases of sexual exploitation of the Ukrainian evacuees or an increase in Ukrainians being advertised for the sale of sex.
- 3) Any intelligence of any attempts to traffick or exploit Ukrainian evacuees or how recruitment is affected.
- 4) Information on the market for, and financial transaction patterns associated with, those trafficked from Central and South America to North-East Europe or elsewhere in Europe.

Contact Us: alanna@traffikanalysis.org // don.simon@stophetraffik.org // neil@traffikanalysis.org

22.12.2022