



**Working to create a society which is inclusive and
compassionate towards migrants**

1/3/22

Samphire's Response to the invasion of Ukraine

Samphire, along with over 50 other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) has signed a letter from the Refugee Council calling on the UK Government to take a "a leading role in international efforts" and "uphold its proud record of helping those fleeing war and oppression". The letter states that "this crisis also illuminates the crucial flaw in the Nationality and Borders Bill currently going through Parliament" and that the Hostile Environment is an irrational and impractical response to humanitarian emergencies and flies in the face British values.

Read the letter and see the signatories [here](#).

Moreover, along with Freedom From Torture, Samphire call on the British Government to:

"Develop a comprehensive humanitarian response that matches the scale of the crisis unfolding in Ukraine and in neighbouring states

- Remove clause 11 of the Nationality & Borders Bill which will severely punish Ukrainian refugees and other people seeking asylum who are forced to take irregular journeys to find safety in the UK
- Create a global resettlement programme to help bring a minimum of 10,000 refugees to safety in the UK every year"

If you feel the same sign their [petition](#).

We join other British charities in urging our government to protect those fleeing any violence in Ukraine and follow the UNHCR's call to keep borders open for Ukrainians who need to leave. The 27 EU countries have waived visa requirements for Ukrainian nationals, recognising that people fleeing war cannot wait for appointments at visa centres. The British government should do the same. The current fast-moving crisis underlines the fact that many people caught in conflict cannot simply wait months or even years for visas or other official paperwork.

We welcome the government showing flexibility on the visas of Ukrainians in the UK, and we urge it also to streamline and expand family reunion rights. Many British citizens with Ukrainian families, or Ukrainian citizens long resident in the UK, want nothing more than to protect those they love best.



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Registered Charity No. 1106667
Regulated by the OISC. Ref. No N201800024



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