



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

28th February 2022

Dear Prime Minister

Britain Cannot Fail Refugees in This Crisis of War

We are extremely proud that our Government is leading the world in establishing diplomatic and economic sanctions and providing military equipment against President Putin's decision to invade the free and democratic country of Ukraine. As President Zelensky has made abundantly clear, the next twenty-four hours are crucial.

And - though it may be the case that the Ukrainian people hold back Russian forces from the heart of Ukraine for now - we cannot leave the Ukrainian people in any doubt that their allies stand behind them in every meaningful way. We recognise that those fleeing their country do so out of fear for their lives and escape from Russian forces' bombardments.

The Secretary of State for Defence was clear this morning that the announcements about UK visas already made for Ukrainians were only "the first step" in our package of support. He is right, this is only a first step and we must go further and act jointly with other European countries and share responsibility with them. We need to act now and we need to act decisively.

We urge the UK government to provide as much support as possible to our European partners who are currently the first safe havens for Ukrainian refugees, namely Poland, Moldova, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. We also hope our Ministers will seek a flexible and pragmatic approach to those Ukrainians wishing to seek temporary refuge in the UK until it is safe to return to their lives in their home country.

It is clear that this is not another migration crisis; this is a crisis of war. This should not be business as usual, we need sincere and immediate support for the Ukrainian people. The United Kingdom cannot flag or fail, our message must be clear: Ukrainian victims of war seeking refuge are welcome.

Yours ever,