

Thursday 10 March 2022

Tēnā koe Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Immigration,

We, the undersigned, represent the Ukrainian community in New Zealand and the New Zealand humanitarian non-government organisation sector.

We thank the Prime Minister for the work already undertaken to address the war and humanitarian situation in Ukraine. We acknowledge there is much more that the New Zealand Government can do to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and submit that the Government should urgently implement the following recommendations.

1. Permit immediate entry to New Zealand the immediate and close family members of New Zealand Ukrainian citizens on humanitarian grounds.¹
2. Increase New Zealand's refugee quota to 4,000 for 2022/2023 with a special allotment for Ukrainian refugees and focus on women and children noting that Ukrainian New Zealand nationals will undertake to provide settlement assistance.²³
3. Increase New Zealand's humanitarian aid to assist Ukrainian people from NZD2,000,000 to NZD 20,000,000.⁴
4. Extend the essential skills and long-term skills shortage visas to Ukrainian citizens and designate funding to actively recruit Ukrainian citizens to fulfil skill shortages that would address labour shortages and enhance the New Zealand economy.
5. Agree that the Government will pay for all managed isolation quarantine stays for Ukrainian citizens that enter New Zealand if required.
6. Establish a consultation group with representation from New Zealand's Ukrainian community to advise the Government and assist with the settlement of Ukrainian citizens.

Signed

Ukrainian organisations in New Zealand

- Mahi for Ukraine
- Friends of Ukraine NZ
- Ukrainian Association of NZ (Southern)
- Ukrainian Educational and Support Trust
- Ukrainian Association of NZ (Northern) Incorporated
- Ukrainian Gromada of Wellington

¹ There are approximately 1,500 Ukrainians in New Zealand with family directly affected by the invasion in Ukraine.

² Current estimates from UNHCR predict 4-5 million refugees from Ukraine.

Note – Ukrainian children do not require internal passports until age 16, so leniency must be made regarding documentation from birth certificates.

³ Please note that work is underway by Mahi for Ukraine with the Ukrainian Community to assist in housing some of the refugees in New Zealand. Mahi for Ukraine would welcome discussion regarding this.

⁴ This figure is more in line with what other governments are pledging worldwide and it recognises the gravity of the war, the emergency situation unfolding and humanitarian needs.

Humanitarian Organisations in New Zealand

- ADRA
- Amnesty International New Zealand
- Childfund New Zealand
- Circuit International
- Hagar New Zealand
- International Needs NZ
- Just Peoples
- Oxfam New Zealand
- Tearfund New Zealand
- The Salvation Army New Zealand
- World Vision New Zealand