



Re: Ukrainian refugees

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you regarding the Government support urgently needed to help Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of their country.

In the face of this escalating humanitarian crisis, the United Kingdom government should relax rules to allow for a humanitarian route and safe passage for desperate refugees fleeing Ukraine due to the war instigated by Russia. Limiting the support of the United Kingdom solely to those with family ties is wrong and does not meet our stated aims of being a welcoming country that stands alongside the people of Ukraine.

Further clarity of details and support on the community sponsorship scheme needs to be provided and work on processing visa scheme applications needs to be ramped up as the situation deteriorates daily in Ukraine. The government's response to this grave refugee crisis has not met the scale of the challenge. More needs to be done, and as a country, we must do all that we can to support those that are fleeing barbarity in their homeland not seen on a scale in Europe since World War II.

There is the will and compassion within the United Kingdom to help those fleeing war and persecution. Some £100m has already been donated to a British fundraising appeal, via the UK Disasters Emergency Committee, to help people both caught up in and fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine.

Lambeth Council stands ready to assist with efforts to welcome Ukrainian refugees fleeing bloodshed and the destruction of their homes and livelihoods. As a council we have come forward and worked with the government previously in the effort to shelter and house those fleeing Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, and other areas afflicted by war and persecution. We stand ready to do so again with our local partners and communities to play our part in providing a haven for those forced to flee their homes.

Now is the time to lead and act with a firm, clear and humanitarian commitment to provide a safe route to any Ukrainian fleeing to the United Kingdom.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

CLlr Claire Holland, Leader of Lambeth council



A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "S Winifred", set against a light grey grid background.

Cllr Sonia Winifred, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture