

For Clergy considering hosting refugees

2 minutes read

Last updated: 15 March 2022

Clergy who are offering accommodation to refugees need to apply through the Government website [Homes for Ukraine](#) and follow the same process as other individuals. Guidance which is issued by the Government will always take precedence, however there are some specific factors which should be considered in addition to any policy already or being put in place by the diocese:

- Government guidance is that Councils must undertake basic DBS checks on all adults in the sponsor household. In households where there are incoming arrivals who are children and/or vulnerable adults, an enhanced DBS check with barred lists check will be required for all adults in the sponsor household. However, consider others who may regularly visit your house. Information on the checks required can be found on the [Governments Guidance for Councils page](#).
- If your home already includes children and/or vulnerable adults, consider the impact of bringing additional children or vulnerable adults into this – for both sides
- If clergy are confirmed as hosting any refugees, it is advisable to inform the DSA of this fact and provide them with contact details of the referring agency
- Those people seeking refuge in the UK are likely to be traumatised by the situation they have left and may exhibit challenging behaviour as a result. Consider your own capacity and resilience to deal with this
- The primary responsibility for therapeutic/welfare support to these refugees remains with the statutory services, however any safeguarding concerns or incidents should be reported in the normal manner

Information for everyone

1 minutes read

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All those arriving from the Ukraine will be suffering a degree of trauma and may be very vulnerable. It is likely there will be a high number of women and children, and some of those children will be unaccompanied. These people will be at a very high risk of exploitation, and it is incumbent on all of us to ensure their safety. Even though there may be a lot happening quite quickly, don't be tempted to skip processes at this time – safeguarding policy must always be complied with. Good safeguarding practice is the foundation on which we can provide the safe environment that is needed and expected.

You can find guidance and resources on our [website](#) and our [e-manual](#).

- Be aware of and alert to [signs of abuse](#) In particular, be aware of the signs you might see in relation to Modern Slavery.
- Report any concerns following the [normal processes](#)
- Ensure information about statutory services, helplines, local charities, the [Clewes Initiative](#) etc are all up to date and prominently displayed.
Consider whether it is possible to have these translated.
- Update [risk assessments](#) of activities where necessary and ensure these are undertaken for new groups or activities planned
- New volunteers must go through the [Safer Recruitment](#) process if they will be having substantial contact with children and vulnerable adults

Modern Slavery Resources

2 minutes read

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Modern Slavery and refugees: April 2022

In recent weeks high numbers of people have been displaced due to the war in Ukraine. Church communities across Europe are looking at ways to help support people affected and many will be providing help and some will be hosting refugees.

Unfortunately, refugees have increased vulnerability to exploitation, including modern slavery and human trafficking. It is essential that those providing support are aware of the risks. To learn more about modern slavery watch this [video](#).

Here are some simple things you can do to help to raise awareness, and to ensure that concerns about modern slavery are being recognised and responded to effectively.

Educate yourself

- There is a range of [information](#) about modern slavery and human trafficking on The Clewer Initiative website
- You can access [eLearning](#) about modern slavery and human trafficking in the resources section of the Church of England training portal
- You can learn more about the experience of victims and survivors by watching this [video](#).

Raise awareness

- Circulate this information to others
- [Download](#) and display posters to raise awareness of the signs of modern slavery and how to get help.

Provide information for those who may be vulnerable

- Read the [blog](#) on The Clewer Initiative website
- Access resources about workers’ rights for Ukrainian speakers [here](#).

Get advice

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It is important that you refer any concerns about Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking through your safeguarding lead. You can also get advice from the Modern Slavery [Helpline](#). They provide services and support in 200 languages.

It is important that as part of an effective response we take steps to educate ourselves and other about the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking, to provide information to people we are supporting about the risks to them, and to ensure that we know how to respond effectively. You can access training about modern slavery [here](#). You will need to create a log in if you don't have one. The training is in the resources section.

This document is version and was printed on 20 April 2024. The most up to date version of this policy can be found on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding>

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