

Persons fleeing Ukraine

# FAMILY UNITY AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



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**FAMILY UNITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT**

## STAY TOGETHER

You should make every effort to ensure your family travels and stays together wherever possible.



To ensure family unity try to:

- travel and stay with your family members whenever possible
- keep your family members informed about the details of your movements and location as best as you can
- keep your documents that prove your identity and family relationship safe and take photos of them, share the digital copies with the people you trust.

If you left family members in Ukraine or in other countries, with whom you would wish to reunify, please check relevant provisions on family reunification in the country you intend to temporarily settle in.

You can inform yourself about rules for family reunification, who can join you and where to go for help at: <https://help.unhcr.org/>



## SEEK HELP AND INFORMATION ALONG THE WAY

If you need immediate support after having fled Ukraine, please visit the Blue Dots set up in countries bordering Ukraine.

The Blue Dots are Information and Support Hubs that have been set up by UNHCR, UNICEF and international and local partners along the main routes of travel. They offer safe spaces, immediate support and services. They can also guide you on family tracing and reunification.

You can recognize them from this sign



Find Blue Dots near you:

[BlueDot Hub](#)



## NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES IF YOU ARE MISSING FAMILY MEMBERS

When registering with the authorities of your country of current residence, please make sure you give full details on all your close family members (in Ukraine or any other country).

Should you have been separated from your family members during flight, please make sure this is mentioned at the stage of registration.

## INITIATE TRACING OF MISSING FAMILY MEMBERS

If you do not know where your family is or you cannot contact them, you can contact the International Red Cross to help you trace your family members: [Restoring Family Links | Restoring Family Links \(icrc.org\)](#)



## YOU WERE SEPARATED FROM YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND WANT TO JOIN THEM?

If your family members are in one of the following states: **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland**

and you are a Ukrainian national, a permanent resident or refugee recognised in Ukraine and living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 or a family member of a Ukrainian national, permanent resident or refugee of Ukraine:

You do not need to apply for family reunification with an embassy. You can independently travel to other EU/Schengen countries and join your family there.

Family members of Ukrainian nationals and permanent residents or refugees of Ukraine include your spouse, your or your spouse's minor unmarried children and other close relatives who lived together before flight and who were dependent on the sponsor at the time.

Depending on the country your family member is staying in, more family members might be included.

Persons who do not belong to the aforementioned group or are not in possession of a biometric passport might still be subjected to visa requirements and required to apply for a visa for onwards travel in the Schengen zone. For more information, please visit the government website of the country you want to enter.



## YOUR FAMILY MEMBER IS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, NOT LISTED ABOVE?

You might need to apply for family reunification or other type of visa with the embassy of the country your family member is staying in.

Family Reunification procedures differ from country to country. Your eligibility for family reunification might depend on your nationality and on the nationality and status of your family member in the other country.

Also, the definition of family and qualifying family members, as well as applicable procedures vary depending on the country your family member is staying in.

For more information, please visit the relevant country page on Information for Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Stateless People | UNHCR – [look for information for persons fleeing Ukraine and family reunification.](#)



Information on travel to countries outside of the European Union can be found here: [CWC-leaflet-on-travel-to-non-EU-countries\\_En.pdf \(unhcr.org\)](#)



## YOU ARE UNDER 18 AND HAVE ARRIVED ON YOUR OWN OR WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOUR PARENTS?

If you are without your parents, please make sure that the authorities know that you are not travelling with your parents. They will assign an adult (sometimes called guardian or representative) to help you with your needs, including the procedure of applying for protection in the new country of residence and seek family tracing and reunification

You can always reach out to this person or other officials if you are scared, need help or want to contact and find your family.

If you feel in danger or need help, **call 112 at any time. It is free.**



# PERSONS FLEEING UKRAINE FAMILY UNITY AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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who can join you and where to go for help at:

<https://help.unhcr.org/>

