

Practical preparation: Preparing your home for welcoming refugees from Ukraine

1.Type of property

Hosts are expected to offer a private space (an empty room or unoccupied self-contained property) rather than a bed in a room you are using (e.g., your bedroom or living room). If you are staying in the same property as your guests, make sure that you clean their bedrooms of any items that you are likely to need on a regular basis to avoid disturbing them.

2.How many guests you can welcome

Depending on the size of the room /property you can offer, you can decide how many people you can welcome into your home. People who did not previously know each other should not be given the same room. Your guests can share one room if they are:

- Adult cohabiting partners
- Parent and child
- Two siblings of the same gender if aged over 10
- Two siblings regardless of gender if aged under 10

3. Basic facilities

The property your guests are staying in has to be free from serious health and safety hazards. You must have completed any required safety checks and your guests will need the following:

- Electricity
- Gas supply
- Smoke detector
- Carbon monoxide detector (in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance)
- Heating
- Running water
- Toilet
- Shower
- Lockable doors and windows

4. Sleeping

Before you welcome your guests, create a space where they can sleep and rest. If the size of your property is limited and you are unable to fit a bed or sofa bed, consider buying camp bed or inflatable mattress. Don't forget about clean bedding.

5. Storage

It is likely that your guests will bring very little luggage with them, but it is important that you provide storage where they can keep their belongings in - this could be a cupboard, shelf or a drawer in their bedroom, kitchen and bathroom as well as some space in the fridge.

6. Home equipment

Enable your guests to become independent and self-sufficient by giving them access to the following amenities and items

- Cooking equipment and utensils
- Washing machine and dryer/ drying rack
- Spare set of keys
- Sim card
- Access to internet

7. Signage

If possible, help your guests settle down and understand where they can find things in your home by providing sign support on cupboards in kitchen, bathroom and other rooms they will have access to.

8. Hygiene Items

Hygiene items are essential to helping refugees stay healthy and maintain their dignity. You can help your guests to organize those on an ongoing basis but it would be helpful to prepare a few essential items beforehand so your guests can use them upon their arrival:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Sanitary Pads
- Toilet Paper
- Clean towels

9. Newborn Supplies

If you are going to host families with small babies, consider providing some critical items to help the families care for their babies in their first day/night. Items that they may find helpful include:

- Diapers
- Baby soap/shampoo
- Bottles
- Formula
- Blankets

10. Food

As with hygiene and baby supplies, you do not have to provide food and meals for your guests. If you decide to prepare food for your guests for their arrival, ensure that you prepare it safely to prevent spread of bacteria and any food poisoning.