

FAQ UKRAINE EMERGENCY USEFUL INFORMATION ON UKRAINE EMERGENCY

Can I send my underage children alone to Italy for safety?

As a general rule, if your child is already 14 years old, they can travel alone within the EU. If the child is under the age of 14, he or she must normally be accompanied by a parent, guardian or reference adult. If the child is travelling without a parent or guardian, the parent or guardian must sign a written declaration that the child is in the care of the accompanying adult. It is suggested that copies of the parents' or guardian's identity documents be attached. If possible, it is advisable to travel with an identification document, passport and/or passport. In the case of air travel, it is advisable to contact the embassy of the country of destination and the airline company to obtain information on the documents required.

If I or my children do not have a passport?

The Embassy of Ukraine in Italy has clarified that Ukrainian citizens fleeing without identification documents will be identified at the consulates upon arrival.

In the absence of a passport, it is advisable to have a birth certificate and/or family status.

In addition, the Embassy of Ukraine in Italy has clarified that the validity of passports is extended to 5 years and that the details of minors under 16 years of age are included in the passports of their parents fleeing the war or residing in Italy. [Here is a link to the relevant minutes of the Ukrainian Embassy.](#)

My underage children are coming alone to Italy, while we parents remain in Ukraine. Will they be taken in? To whom will they be entrusted?

Minors who arrive in Italy alone - whether they have travelled without reference adults or with one or more adults who have only accompanied them during the trip - in the absence of parents or parental references within the IV degree present on Italian territory, will be welcomed by the Italian reception system.

A minor who does not have any parental reference on Italian territory on arrival in Italy must apply to the Ufficio Minori Stranieri (Office for Foreign Minors) of the municipality of arrival or, alternatively, to the local social services or the nearest police station.

This system provides for the appointment of a guardian for each of these minors, who will take the place of the holder of parental responsibility in Italy. In addition, placement in reception centres or with foster families will be guaranteed. The guardian, together with the foster families and the managers of the reception centres, will therefore be responsible for applying for residence permits and other documents for the minors, as well as for their schooling and health care, and for maintaining contact with the family in the country of origin.

Of course, if the child's parents are in Italy, the child will be reunited with them.

There are relatives/acquaintances of mine in Italy to whom I would like to entrust my children. Is this possible?

In this case, it is useful to put in writing the consent of the holders exercising parental responsibility (parents, guardian) for the minors to be entrusted to relatives/acquaintances present in Italy who have expressed their willingness to receive the minors.

As a rule, it would be important to have a notarial deed or a deed drawn up before a public official to be then translated and legalised for use in Italy. However, in the present emergency situation, it is suggested to put this will in writing, by simply writing by hand a declaration clearly expressing the will to foster, indicating in precise detail the personal details and residence of the holders exercising parental responsibility and of the potential foster carers (enclosing copies of all identity documents, with recognisable signatures of both parents or the guardian) and the reasons for fostering (emergency, impossibility of following the children and relationship of the foster carers with the children).

Normally, the procedure for fostering involves the social services competent in the territory of the potential foster carer. It is therefore advisable to contact the social services, which will take charge of the request and then submit it, if necessary, for ratification by the ordinary court (tutelary judge). In some cases, as an alternative, with the help of a lawyer, an appeal can also be made to the Juvenile Court, always enclosing the documentation mentioned above.

It should be borne in mind that anyone who, not being a relative up to the fourth degree of kinship, takes a child permanently into his or her home, after a period of months 6, is obliged to report this to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court.

We are fleeing the war in Ukraine, what kind of residence permit will we be able to apply for once we arrive in Italy?

At an European level, the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine pursuant to Article 5 of Directive 2011/55/EC has been approved, resulting in the introduction of temporary protection for persons of Ukrainian nationality or who were living permanently in Ukraine and fleeing the conflict. The details of the application here in Italy will be defined shortly. Pursuant to Legislative Decree 85/2003 (which transposed the aforementioned directive) persons enjoying temporary protection will be able to work, study, and have access to social assistance and medical care. We are waiting for the Dpcm that will regulate the matter in detail.

Can I have another type of residence permit, e.g. can I apply for international protection? Is it true that I have to surrender my passport?

Alternatively, those who arrive in Italy can access the protection provided for people who have survived individual persecution or are fleeing from war by applying for international protection. The application for international protection is made at the Immigration Office of the competent Territorial Police Headquarters by handing in the passport and filling in form C3.

After formalising the application, the territorial Commission for the recognition of international protection is called for a hearing. Following a protected, private and secure hearing in the presence of a mediator, it may decide to recognise one of the following forms of protection:

- Refugee status is granted when there is a well-founded fear "of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, he or she is outside the country";
- Or subsidiary protection when there are "substantial grounds for believing that if he were to return to his country of origin he would face a real risk of suffering serious harm", due to ongoing conflicts or the risk of being tortured or sentenced to death;
- Or special protection, when it is necessary to ensure the respect of the right to family and private life of the foreign citizen (e.g. the person has been living in Italy for a long time or has family ties in Italy or has the possibility to have a work contract or to attend a course of studies, etc.). In assessing the conditions for special protection, account must also be taken of the nature and effectiveness of the family ties of the person concerned, his effective social integration in Italy, the duration of his stay in the country and the existence of family, cultural or social ties with his country of origin. Alternatively, he may ascertain the prerequisites for issuing a residence permit for medical treatment in the event of serious physical or psychological pathology.

In the first two cases, a residence permit is issued for the duration of years 5 for political asylum or subsidiary protection. In the case of special protection or permit for medical treatment, the permit will last two years or one year.

If refugee status is recognised, the passport is not returned and the Police Headquarters issues an equivalent document called travel document, which allows travel throughout the world except to Ukraine.

In the other cases, the passport is usually returned at the end of the procedure unless the person declares that he/she wishes to break off relations with his/her country of origin.

It is also possible to request special protection by applying directly to the Questore, who decides after hearing the opinion of the Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection.

When we arrive in Italy, what kind of welcome will we receive?

Italy has provided for people who are fleeing the conflict in Ukraine to be placed in centres of the CAS (Centri temporanei di Accoglienza) and SAI (Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione) system, even if they do not have the status of applicants for international protection or other qualifications required by law to access to the SAI.

The reference body for reception is the Prefecture.

When you arrive in Italy, you can report the need for reception at the police station or directly to the social services of the municipality where you are placed.

What happens if I don't have the digital Passenger Locator Form (PLF, in digital or paper form) or the green Covid-19 certification?

For citizens coming from Ukraine, regardless of citizenship, without a digital Passenger Locator Form (PLF, in digital or paper form) or green Covid-19 certification at the time of entry into the country, a diagnostic test will be carried out or, alternatively, within 48 hours of entry into Italy at the competent ASL, in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Health of 22.02.22.

In case of Covid-19 positivity or contact with a positive case, current legislation will be applied and appropriate prophylaxis and tracing measures will be taken.

Ukrainian refugees will be eligible for free Covid19 vaccination. To this end, it is preferable to have an STP (Temporarily Resident Foreigner) code, which can be obtained from the competent ASL (local health authority) if you do not already have a health card.

Unaccompanied foreign minors may be vaccinated only with the consent of their guardian.

Can I use the public health system in Italy?

Access to the public health system is guaranteed to all foreigners who hold a regular residence permit or are waiting for its renewal for work, family reasons, international protection, special cases, special protection for medical treatment (except the residence permits issued following an entry visa for medical treatment), waiting for adoption, fostering and acquisition of citizenship. Services are free of charge or provided under the same conditions as for Italian citizens (e.g. in some cases by paying a ticket).

In any case, urgent or essential care is guaranteed to all foreigners on Italian territory.

It is possible to give birth in public hospitals without any payment.

Can children from Ukraine go to school?

Yes, all foreigners minors under the age of 18 have the same right to education as Italian minors. The enrolment of foreign children in school can be requested at any time of the year. The school must guarantee the child's enrolment even if he/she does not have a residence permit or if the personal documentation is not complete. For enrolment, contact the Territorial School Office. You can also ask for information from the Social Services of the Municipality where you are.

For further information:

call the toll-free number

800.141016 - 351.2202016*

Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

or send an e-mail to

helplineminorimigranti@savethechildren.org