

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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By ESEC at 1:12 pm, Apr 12, 2022

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Mayorkas:

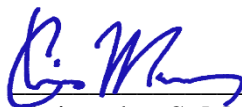
In recent weeks the world has watched the situation on the ground in Ukraine rapidly deteriorate, with civilians caught in the conflict exposed to extreme personal danger. I fully support ongoing efforts to provide additional military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and we must continue to explore all possible ways to assist the Ukrainian people. Specifically, I understand there are Ukrainians in the family and employment-based immigration system for whom a visa is not yet available. I urge you to assess the number of Ukrainian nationals waiting in these backlogs and exercise humanitarian parole to allow them to quickly escape this dangerous warzone and enter the United States.

The Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefits to any person applying for admission to the United States. Using parole to immediately bring Ukrainian nationals with approved visa petitions into the United States would help reunify families and save lives.

President Putin's invasion of Ukraine has threatened the safety and stability of Ukraine and Europe more broadly. Russia's military has deployed indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine, including civilian evacuation routes. I have seen credible reports of Russians shooting Ukrainian civilians and shelling civilian targets - deliberate or reckless attacks that can be prosecuted for war crimes. More than ten million Ukrainians have already fled their homes and the United Nations estimates that 18 million people will need humanitarian assistance.

I ask that you expeditiously determine the number of Ukrainian nationals who have approved visa petitions and use parole to facilitate their immediate travel to the United States.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

Thank you for your April 12, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting that DHS determine the number of Ukrainian nationals who have approved visa petitions and use parole to facilitate their immediate travel to the United States. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

On April 21, 2022, DHS announced a new streamlined process, Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), to provide Ukrainian citizens who fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression with opportunities to come to the United States.¹ To be eligible, Ukrainians must have been residents in Ukraine as of February 11, 2022, have a U.S.-based supporter, complete vaccinations and other public health requirements, and pass biometric and biographic screening and security background checks.

As of April 25, 2022, U.S.-based individuals interested in supporting Ukrainian beneficiaries can file a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as the first step in the U4U process. Individuals are vetted to ensure they can assist those they agree to support. USCIS will reach out to the Ukrainians named in approved Forms I-134 with instructions on how to initiate vetting and apply for a travel document that will authorize them to travel to the United States and be considered for parole, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of two years. Once paroled through this process, Ukrainians are eligible to apply for employment authorization. More details on who is eligible to provide support and who can be considered for parole under U4U can be found on the U4U landing page.²

Secretary Mayorkas also announced the designation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months to offer protection for individuals who have been residing in the United States since April 11, 2022 and who are nationals or who last habitually resided in Ukraine.³ TPS allows eligible Ukrainian nationals in the United States to remain and authorizes

¹ See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

² <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

³ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/03/secretary-mayorkas-designates-ukraine-temporary-protected-status-18-months>

them to work lawfully. The Department recently published a Federal Register notice with instructions for applying for TPS and an Employment Authorization Document. In addition, USCIS recently released an alert providing individuals with critical information about immigration avenues that may be available entitled, *“Immigration Help Available to Those Affected by Special Situations, Including the Invasion of Ukraine.”*⁴

To further support the President’s recent commitments, DHS is also working to expand current legal pathways and develop new programs. We are coordinating our efforts closely with our European allies and partners who are on the front lines of this refugee crisis. Individuals, depending on location and circumstances, may be eligible for a nonimmigrant visa, an immigrant visa, TPS, asylum, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, or the new U4U process for applying for parole.⁵

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director

⁴ <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/immigration-help-available-to-those-affected-by-special-situations-including-the-invasion-of-ukraine>

⁵ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20DHS%20Efforts%20to%20Assist%20Ukrainian%20Nationals_1.pdf