

Dear Prime Minister,

Our continued support for Ukraine has shown Britain at its best. From helping support Ukrainian troops on the ground, to working to corral international support on the world stage, to providing shelter to over 100,000 Ukrainians driven from their homes. It is no wonder then that from Kyiv to Lviv, the UK is seen as one of Ukraine's strongest allies.

That depth of support for Ukraine extends across the UK. Nothing better typifies it than the huge take up of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, which has seen families right across the UK open their doors to those seeking security and safety. We are confident that the level of civic engagement in the Hong Kong welcoming programme, community sponsorship and other schemes can provide the basis for a new approach to refugee resettlement and welcoming in the UK extending to different groups of refugees. We firmly believe sponsorship has the potential to better command public confidence in dealing with future crises, empowering communities with control over refugee resettlement.

We know that despite recent Ukrainian successes, the war is sadly unlikely to end soon. As such we believe it is vital that your new Government makes an early commitment to the Homes for Ukraine scheme with a promise of ongoing support; financial and otherwise. Only by doing so can we give refugees and hosts certainty about the future of their lives in the UK.

That commitment should involve:

1. **A guaranteed continuation of financial payments to hosts, with the level of that payment adjusted to take account of the increased cost of living.** With the UK facing a cost-of-living crisis, we echo the former Minister for Refugees' call for an increased payment to hosts to help them through the winter. The continued generosity of hosts at a time of economic strain is inspiring, but without extra support many will be unable to afford extra people in their home.
2. **Help refugee families find homes.** Many refugees who have arrived through resettlement and complementary pathways are now looking for their own places to rent, but they find themselves facing the known challenges of housing supply. A rental scheme for refugees who have arrived through a government-backed scheme, supported by local government who can act as guarantors for private landlords, and a central database of landlords willing to rent to refugee families would help refugees find a more permanent home more quickly.
3. **Give assurance on how the work will be owned and driven across Government and beyond.** In his role as Minister for Refugees, Lord Harrington held specific responsibility for oversight of the scheme and his resignation risks leaving it without a champion or trouble shooter within Government.

Your commitment to the people of Ukraine, powerfully reaffirmed during your party conference speech, is matched by widespread public support – over 70% of the public agree the UK should continue to support Ukrainian refugees. As a result, there is not only a moral, but political imperative to give certainty to the future of the scheme.

The UK has a proud history of leading the fight against tyrants and standing up for the oppressed. Homes for Ukraine sits firmly within that tradition, which is why we hope the Government will now make clear – to host families, and refugees alike – that their commitment remains unwavering.



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Signed:

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