

APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery & IOM Ukraine Meeting

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IOM is the main UN agency working in countering human trafficking in the Ukraine. Their work focuses on coordinating projects, providing assistance to victims with local authorities and advocacy on legislation change.

There are currently 7.7 million internally displaced people in Ukraine and 5 million who have left Ukraine. Families with children are most likely to move, older people are less likely to leave. 30% of families with children under 5 are experiencing problems in getting supplies for their children.

Trafficking risks with crossing borders connected to high-risk offers of accommodation and transport. Ukrainians have an existing high vulnerability to trafficking in terms of offers to work before the war. At risk groups include children in need of medical support, single parent families, orphaned or unaccompanied children.

Recommendations

Information provision: people need to be informed before they leave the country what are the risks, potential scams, where they can report issues and signs of trafficking. United for Ukraine have clear warnings on trafficking risks. Collaboration with Ukraine and neighbouring countries in terms of information sharing.

Guidance on support for hosts in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, complaints and feedback mechanism for the refugees in the Homes for Ukraine scheme and guidance on Seasonal Workers Visa entitlements. To discuss further with the Minister.

Labour Exploitation: preventing labour exploitation for Ukrainians must be a priority in the UK through inspections of workplaces.

Institutional cooperation: discussions about human trafficking risks with Ukrainian Government officials and MPs and of neighbouring countries. APPG to be in touch with Ukrainian MPs to discuss trafficking issues with them. Eliza to provide details on MPs interested.

Resources: It is essential that humanitarian aid could target those most at risk from trafficking entering the UK.

Issues in the UK: delays in getting DBS checks for host families.