

Preventing the Trafficking of those Impacted by the Conflict in Ukraine

Accountancy ISWEG alert



Overview

The STOP THE TRAFFIK Group and Hope for Justice have been analysing the current conflicts within Ukraine. Mainly where vulnerable refugees are being exploited after fleeing the country. The purpose of this document is to outline potential risks you may identify from clients who may take on new employees from Ukraine who could be at risk of exploitation.

What is happening?

Between 15,000 and 20,000 Ukrainian refugees have made their way to places such as Greece; Romania and higher risk exploitation areas such as Italy; Hungary and Austria. It has been identified that there are plans for exploited refugees to be trafficked to the UK for sexual exploitation and labour exploitation (mainly hospitality, construction and agriculture industries). There is a pre-existing link to trafficked Ukrainians entering into exploited labour roles within the UK's agriculture sector.

Intelligence also identifies UK companies are being contacted by Ukrainians looking to co-ordinate jobs in the UK for refugees seeking work within the UK. These requests could be legitimate, but they are also indicative of trafficker preparation where they will advertise for fake jobs in order to traffic and exploit these refugees once they are in the UK.

What can you do?

If during conversation or business with a client you become aware of the client having new employees from Ukraine or assisting of refugees try to ascertain how this arrangement was made i.e. were they contacted by someone in Ukraine or did they advertise jobs specifically looking to employee refugees. Also be mindful of your clients business nature and if linked to some of the higher exploited sectors such as hospitality; construction or agriculture as these could be red flags.

If your client's business nature or business size does not support having a sudden influx of additional new staff via refugees this too could be a potential risk factor to be considered.

Further information

For further information regarding 'Advice for Anyone Supporting Ukrainian Refugees: Life in the UK and Modern Slavery' follow the below link to download the advice sheet containing the risks and indicators to be aware of: [Ukraine Crisis: Human Trafficking | Hope for Justice](#)

Suspicious Activity Reporting [SARs]

If you know or suspect ML or TF activity you should make a SAR using any relevant Glossary Codes. Guidance on reporting is available at: www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk

Data Protection Considerations

Please consider your obligations under the relevant data protection regulations and where necessary remove any related personal data from your systems securely and within a satisfactory timeframe.

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