



## WELCOME LETTER TO UKRAINIAN GUESTS

Welcome to Ireland. Our team at Helping Irish Hosts is here to help and we all stand with you at this dark time. We hope we can help offer you refuge with an Irish host until you can return home to brighter days ahead.

Helping Irish Hosts is an organisation which arose in response to the Ukrainian crisis, to support individuals and communities in Ireland who want to offer refuge in their homes. We have been working in partnership with the Irish Red Cross in emergency accommodation settings since August 2022. This letter aims to provide you with honest information, based on personal experience, to help you consider your next steps in living in Ireland.

### Challenges around housing & accommodation in Ireland

There is a housing crisis in Ireland (it was here before you arrived, so it's not new and it's not your fault). Property prices are high and rents are also at an all-time high. It's very difficult to find rental accommodation, regardless of who you are and where you come from. There are over 11,500 homeless people in Ireland (including families). People travel long distances to work and college in urban locations. Thousands of asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan and other war-torn countries live in Direct Provision, long-term shared housing where they cannot work or cook for themselves. Thousands of Ukrainians live in temporary accommodation, provided by the state. The quality of that accommodation is very varied, ranging from hotels (of all standards) to military barracks and sports halls. **The arrival of more than 73,000 Ukrainians is a difficult challenge for the State.**

**Currently, the following housing options are available in Ireland if you are unable to make your own private arrangements:**

### International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS)

Every asylum seeker, including Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP), in Ireland is offered short-term accommodation by the state organisation IPAS. The type and quality of accommodation offered depends on availability. You can find up to date information about IPAS accommodation in Ukrainian and Russian here: [frequently asked questions about IPAS accommodation \(pdf\)](#) in [Ukrainian \(pdf\)](#) and [Russian \(pdf\)](#).

Video: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c434f-botps/#>

**Please Note:** From 28 November 2022, government policy anticipates all Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) will receive only one offer of suitable accommodation. If you refuse, you will not get another offer from the government. It will be your own responsibility to find accommodation.

### Living in an Irish (HOST) family home

Thousands of Ukrainians live with Irish host families, in Host homes. These people want to show solidarity by making room for you in their own houses. Most of us are doing very

well together. Actually, it's even better than we expected. Both the Hosts and Ukrainian guests consider this a positive experience, an opportunity to exchange traditions and feel some light and kindness in times of darkness.

Zhanna shares her experience living in a Host home here: <https://youtu.be/qgsdn9FxsHU> (in Ukrainian).

### **If you want to be hosted with our help:**

If you are ready to live in a Host home, our team at Helping Irish Hosts is here to help you. Please take time to read through some important information before registering with us: [Guest Toolkit](#)

### **Next Steps:**

- If you are ready to give it a try and would like to register to live with a Host or Host family, please fill out the form in English [here](#). Please note! We do not accept location requests. We offer accommodation in property locations available to us from Hosts all over Ireland, many of which are in the countryside.
- If you need help filling out the form in English, please email [hostme@helpingirishhosts.com](mailto:hostme@helpingirishhosts.com) with "Help with a form" in the subject line.
- If you submit an accommodation request form to Helping Irish Hosts, you will receive a maximum of two offers before we move on to another guest. In some cases we may not have a second offer available.
- We recommend you download [Whatsapp](#). It's the main way we communicate.

We can't find the perfect match for everyone, but we'll do our best to find the right match for you! We wish you peace, love and all the best on your journey, wherever it may take you.

**Glory to Ukraine**    
**Helping Irish Hosts**

More information and really useful links can be found here:  
[https://linktr.ee/HiH\\_info\\_for\\_Ukrainians](https://linktr.ee/HiH_info_for_Ukrainians)