



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ODIHR survey on safety and security of women refugees from Ukraine

As part of its anti-trafficking response to the military attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine, ODIHR is conducting a confidential online survey of women refugees from Ukraine on issues relating to their safety and security.

The survey seeks to collect information on the experiences of women and children who are especially vulnerable to trafficking. It aims to make sure that the voices and experiences of those concerned are incorporated into policy recommendations and training programmes relating to safety and security concerns of women and children fleeing Ukraine.

The survey, which includes 30 brief questions, is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian, and can be accessed [here](#). A list of useful hotlines for refugees is also provided.

UNHCR figures show that since 24 February 2022, at least 6.4 million people were forced to flee Ukraine due to the military attack by the Russian Federation and the ensuing international armed conflict. The vast majority of the refugees are women and children.

Armed conflicts exacerbate the vulnerability to trafficking in human beings (THB), especially women and children refugees and internally displaced persons. It erodes the rule of law, impedes the functioning of government institutions and increases social and economic vulnerabilities. Traffickers can easily exploit such situations. They may deceptively present rescue or safety solutions for victims, act as facilitators or agents to help them travel, find accommodation, educational opportunities or employment, with the intention of trafficking them for exploitation. Traffickers may recruit victims and take them from areas affected by armed conflict, refugee camps, reception centres, shelters and hospitals or target them online or at border crossings or transportation hubs.

Effective responses, including functioning National Referral Mechanisms in conflict and emergency situations, are crucial to preventing and combating the trafficking of refugee women and children in countries of transit and destination.

In its over 20 years of experience in anti/trafficking work, ODIHR has focused on victim protection and the promotion of the rights of trafficked persons and at-risk groups, including through the promotion of [National Referral Mechanisms](#) and the inclusion of survivors of human trafficking as key stakeholders within the multidisciplinary approach to combatting trafficking in human beings.