

FACT SHEET

“AS A REFUGEE, CAN I WORK IN THE UK?”

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This factsheet is for Ukrainians coming to the UK who are looking for part or full time employment. It emphasises that refugees, with leave to remain in the UK, are entitled to the same employment opportunities and rights as UK nationals. However, there is a need to prove immigration status and right to work.

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TYPES OF WORK ARE NOT RESTRICTED

Refugees with leave to remain are not restricted in the type of work they are permitted to undertake. Leave to remain means the right to live, work, claim benefits and study in the UK.

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BRPs PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF LEAVE TO REMAIN

The Home Office issues a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) when a refugee is granted leave to remain. <https://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits>

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REFUGEES NEED TO PROVE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK

Employers should check if a refugee has the right to work. Refugees need to complete an online form (BRP and passport details needed) here: <https://www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work>

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BREXIT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Britain's exit from the EU makes no difference to a refugee's right to work, regardless of where they come from.

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IT DOES NOT MATTER WHICH SCHEME A REFUGEE ENTERED UNDER

Whether a refugee entered the UK under the Family Scheme or the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, as long as they have leave to remain they can work and access benefits.

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RIGHT TO WORK STATUS IS VERY EASY TO CHECK

It's really easy to check a refugees' right to work, they will just need their date of birth and right to work share code (if available) Go to www.gov.uk/view-right-to-work

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REFUGEES ARE PROTECTED BY UK EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Legally working refugees have the same rights as UK nationals, with protection from unlawful deductions, holiday pay, breaks etc. <https://www.gov.uk/employment-status/worker>

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THERE ARE MANY CHANNELS TO GO TO FIND WORK AND ADVICE

The most common route to find out about jobs and get advice is via job centres. There are also websites such as uk.indeed.com who look to help Ukrainians looking for work.

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FACEBOOK IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO FIND OUT ABOUT VACANCIES

Facebook groups such as “Watford and Surround” share vacancies and offers of employment including schemes by large companies aimed at helping Ukrainians into work.

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HELP IS AVAILABLE

The local job centre and Citizens Advice are good sources of support and advice, there is also the National Careers Service via <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> or 0800-100900

