



# Temporary protection

March 2023



*“As soon as Russian troops crossed the border into Ukraine, our response was united, determined and immediate. A whole continent has risen in solidarity. At the border crossings where refugees found shelter. In our streets, filled with Ukrainian flags. In the classrooms, where Ukrainian children made new friends. Europe’s solidarity with Ukraine will remain unshakeable.”*

Ursula von der Leyen

## Temporary protection for people fleeing the war in Ukraine

The European Union **activated the Temporary Protection Directive** on 4 March 2022 to offer immediate and effective protection to people fleeing the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

**Around 4 million people were granted immediate protection in the EU**, out of which more than 3 million in the first half of 2022.

### It applies to:



Ukrainian nationals who lived in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 as well as their family members displaced by the conflict.



Non-Ukrainian nationals and stateless people who had refugee status or equivalent national protection on 24 February 2022 and their family members.



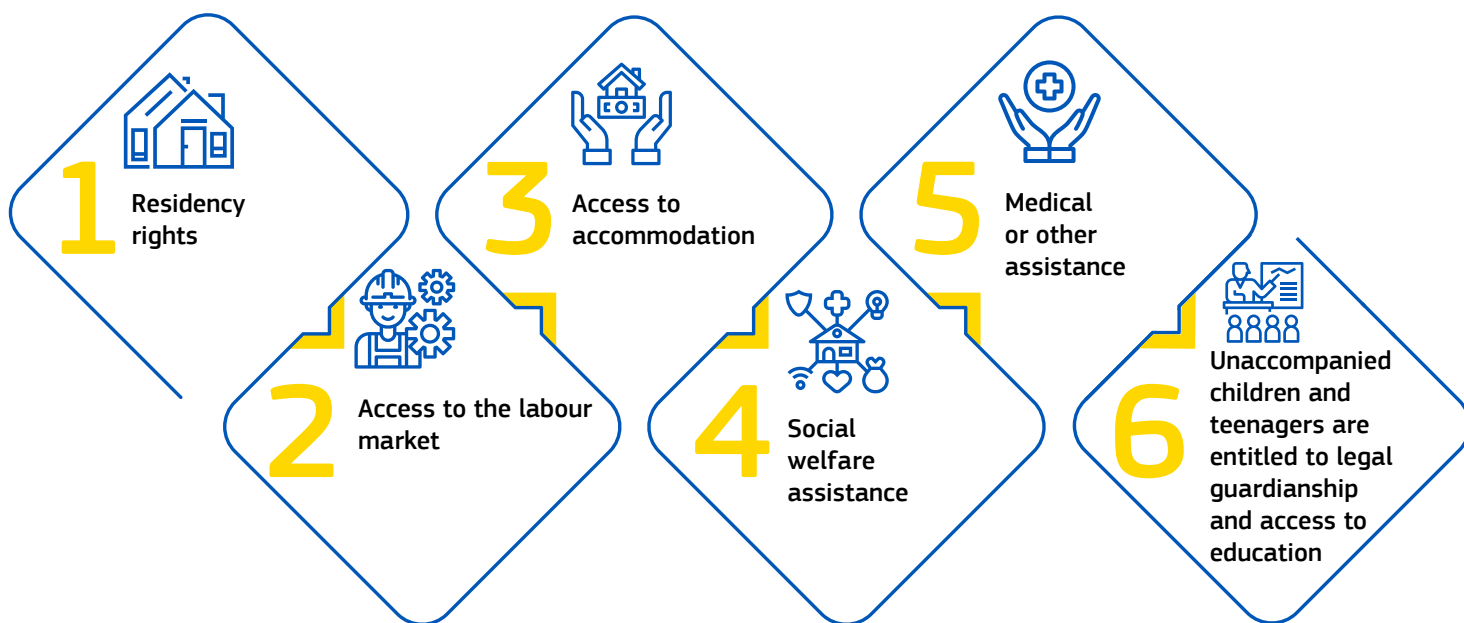
Many Member States have extended temporary protection to additional categories of displaced persons.

Persons outside of this scope are also allowed access to the EU to transit prior to returning to their countries of origin.

Nationals of non-EU countries other than Ukraine and stateless people legally residing in Ukraine on 24 February with a valid permanent residence permit and are unable to go back to their country of origin in safe conditions.



## Temporary protection means:



The Commission has decided to roll over temporary protection until March 2024 and is ready to further extend it until March 2025. The Directive offers also the possibility of going home to Ukraine on a voluntary basis.

## Temporary protection allows to:



Reduce the risk of overwhelming systems



Offer quick protection for those in need



Prepare for current and future needs



Promote enhanced solidarity and responsibility sharing