

NEW PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS AND HUMANITARIAN WORKERS

Starting July 1, 2026, foreign volunteers and humanitarian workers will be able to apply for a temporary residence permit during the period of martial law and for one year following its termination or cancellation. They will not be required to submit a long-term (Type D) visa as part of the application.



Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Section IV 'Final Provisions' of the Law of Ukraine 'On the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons' Regarding the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Certain Categories of Foreigners and Stateless Persons During the Period of Martial Law"

KEY CHANGES

The Law introduces a temporary exception (applicable during martial law and for one year after its termination or cancellation) to the requirement established by paragraph one of part one of Article 5² of the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons."

Foreign volunteers engaged by Ukrainian organizations, as well as humanitarian workers employed by branches or representative offices of foreign non-governmental organizations, are no longer required to provide a long-term (Type D) visa as a prerequisite for obtaining a temporary residence permit in Ukraine.



Important: These amendments do not affect the rules governing entry into Ukraine and do not modify Ukraine's visa regime for foreign nationals. The Law regulates only the subsequent legalization of stay and residence in Ukraine through obtaining a temporary residence permit.

The provisions of the Law apply to foreigners and stateless persons (except citizens of the Russian Federation) who fall within one of the following categories:

- 1 HUMANITARIAN WORKERS**
Individuals who entered Ukraine to work for branches or representative offices of legal entities established under the laws of foreign states and duly registered in Ukraine, provided that such branches or representative offices are recognized as recipients of humanitarian aid in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Humanitarian Aid."
- 2 FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS**
Individuals who entered Ukraine for the purpose of:
 - participating in international or regional volunteer programmes; or
 - participating in the activities of organizations and/or institutions that engage volunteers in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Volunteer Activity."



The introduced provisions constitute **special temporary measures**. They will remain in force for the **duration of martial law in Ukraine and for one year following its termination or cancellation**.

After the expiry of this period, the relevant categories of foreigners and stateless persons will once again be subject to the general requirements of Ukraine's migration legislation.

OVERSTAY REGULARIZATION

The Law establishes a special mechanism for regularizing the legal status of foreign nationals and stateless persons who are humanitarian workers or volunteers but have **overstayed their permitted period of visa-free stay in Ukraine**.

To qualify under this mechanism, **applicants must:**

- have entered Ukraine after **February 24, 2022**; and
- possess the complete set of documents required to confirm their humanitarian or volunteer activities for the purpose of obtaining a temporary residence permit; and
- submit an application for a temporary residence permit **within 60 calendar days from the date the Law enters into force**.



DAYS APPLICATION WINDOW From July 1, 2026 through August 29, 2026

Upon successful submission of an application for a temporary residence permit to the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the foreign national or stateless person shall be considered to be legally staying in Ukraine on a temporary basis while the application is being processed, without being subject to administrative penalties for previously overstaying the permitted period of stay.



PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

Guidance of the State Migration Service of Ukraine on the procedure for applying for a temporary residence permit

The procedure for obtaining a temporary residence permit is governed by:

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 322 of 25 April 2018 "On Approval of the Procedure for the Issuance, Exchange, Revocation, Forwarding, Seizure, Return to the State, Invalidation and Destruction of Temporary Residence Permits."



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