

From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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A message to all Ukrainian health and care staff in the UK

The world is united in its condemnation, horror and disgust at the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine – a shocking event governments around the world, not least the UK, strained every diplomatic sinew to prevent. I can only imagine how scared, angry and outraged Ukrainian nationals must be feeling right now, including those living and working in the UK.

I want you to know we recognise wholeheartedly the vital role Ukrainian nationals and those of Ukrainian origin play in the health and care sector. Your compassion for those you care for is undoubted, and your pain is our pain.

That's why the British Government is doing all it can to support Ukrainian nationals living and working in the UK. Building on immediate support provided in recent weeks to assist British Nationals to leave Ukraine, the <u>Home Secretary recently confirmed Ukrainians who are on work, study or visit visas in the UK will have their visas temporarily extended or be able to switch onto different visa routes</u>. We are also in ongoing discussions with our Ukrainian counterparts to determine what support, including medical supplies, is needed.

I know that nothing can make up for the hurt you will be going through, particularly those with loved ones in Ukraine, but I hope these visa changes provide some stability amidst the current uncertainty. You have helped our country through the most difficult times, often placing yourselves at risk as you did so, and it is only right that we help you too.

I want to remind you again of the support (<u>NHS staff support</u>, <u>social care staff support</u>) available to all frontline health and care workers, not just our Ukrainian friends but anyone affected by the events in eastern Europe. This package of resources is dedicated to health and care staff like you. Please call, text or make contact whenever you need.

While you are living, working and supporting your families in this country, be assured we will do what we can to keep you safe and give you what peace of mind we can in these very challenging times.

My thoughts are with you all,

S.J.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP