**Amnesty International UK**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ADD DATE**

**CALL FOR [LOCAL MP NAME] TO URGENTLY SUPPORT REFUGEES FLEEING UKRAINE**

**Amnesty [insert group name or location] is calling on [insert local MP name] to urge the PM to step up the UK’s response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis**

**[Insert subhead about your activity. Is there a photo opportunity? Gathering?]**

**[Insert subhead about any ongoing work you’re doing to support refugees and people seeking asylum - remove if not applicable]**

[Insert group name or location] Amnesty International group are calling on [insert local MP name] to “add their voice” to calls for the Government to step up efforts to assist refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Amnesty has described the UK’s response to the crisis as “chaotic and “lacklustre”, warning that “history is repeating itself” after similar failings in response to last year’s emergency situation in Afghanistan.

UK ministers have spoken of an aspiration to provide a place of sanctuary to approximately 200,000 people from Ukraine, though narrow visa requirements have remained in place amid a bureaucratic and ill-managed system.

According to the UN refugee agency, more than 2.5 million people have fled from Ukraine since Russia’s criminal invasion on 24 February [you can update this figure via <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>].

Amnesty [believes](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-anything-less-full-visa-waiver-ukrainian-refugees-should-be-binned) the UK’s deeply inadequate response to the Ukraine refugee crisis is evidence of a “corrosively anti-refugee attitude” within the Home Office. The Government is currently taking its [Nationality and Borders Bill](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023) through Parliament, which will fundamentally undermine the UK’s asylum system and damage refugee rights globally.

In response to Ukraine crisis, Amnesty has launched a new [campaign](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/UkraineCrisis?from=issue) calling on Boris Johnson to ensure the Government “does its part to help those fleeing the war”.

Amnesty [group name] is [add lines on your activity].

Amnesty [add local group name] calls on [add local MP name] to urge the Prime Minister to:

* Strengthen international efforts to protect civilians, provide humanitarian relief and help bring suspected perpetrators of crimes under international law to justice.
* Press for parties to the conflict to create & respect humanitarian corridors to safe havens, for all civilians to have access to transportation and time to leave, and for international observers to be granted access to monitor their safe passage.
* Fulfil the commitment to provide sanctuary to 200,000 Ukrainian refugees in the UK by providing safe routes to travel here, such as by a temporary visa waiver.
* Abandon measures in the Nationality and Borders Bill which will do serious damage to the UK's asylum system.

Quote from local activist group quote [Add name, title], said:

[a few lines about your local action.]

**ENDS**

Media contact:

[Add your contact details – email and phone number]