**STAYING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW.**

**Hosting a refugee family from the Ukraine**

The host families in East Sussex are doing an incredible and selfless act by taking in Ukrainian refugees into their homes. However some of you have asked for clarity about the law and whilst the vast majority treat refugee guests with dignity and provide accommodation there are a few ‘do’s and don’ts’ to keep within the law.

**You MUST NOT:**

· Charge your refugee guests rent within this hosting scheme.

· Charge your refugee guests rent in arrears or place them in a situation of financial debt to you for accommodation.

· Charge your guests the equivalent of rent by asking them to pay for food or items for you and your household from their means on a regular basis.

· Charge your guests excessive fees for accidental damage to any household items.

· Take any passports, identification documents or other paperwork away from your guests.

· Force your guests to work for you for free or minimal payment in exchange for accommodation or items. This includes forced domestic labour and childcare.

· Force or strongly persuade your guests to work for a business you or a colleague owns against their will.

· Perform any abusive acts against any adult or child in your household, either in person, online or through other forms of force, fraud, deception or coercion.

· Demand or infer the need for any form of sexual or other favours in return for accommodation or non-interference in daily life.

· Misuse or interfere in any way with your guests bank accounts or government benefits.

· Take photographs, videos, items or break the privacy of your guests in any way without consent.

**Reporting concerns**

• Always call 999 if there is a crime in action or immediate threat to life. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service 18000 or text on 999 if you have pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

• You can report to Sussex Police online or call on 101 at any time to report an incident. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use their textphone service on 18001 101.

* You can also report any concerns in relation to an adult to Health and Social Care Connect – 0345 60 80 191 who are open 8am to 8pm 7 days a week including Bank holidays.
* For Children please contact the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) team on 01323 464222.
* Should you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
* For further advice you can contact the Modern Slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700.<https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

### **You can also find support through free Mediation Services.**

Free mediation and one to one support is available for hosts and their Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. If you are having issues with your guest you can contact the relevant service directly to make a referral or you can speak to the Project Officer who covers the whole of East Sussex.

**Contact details:**

**Lewes District referrals**[🔗 Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service](https://www.bhims.org.uk/)
📩 casework@bhims.org.uk 📞 01273 700812

**Wealden and Eastbourne referrals**[🔗 Mediation Plus](https://mediation-plus.org.uk/)
📩 neighbourhood@mediation-plus.org.uk 📞 01323 442781

**Hastings and Rother referrals**[🔗 Hastings and Rother Mediation Service](http://www.mediationeastsussex.co.uk/)
📩 neighbourhood@hrmediation.co.uk 📞 01424 446808