

## Team – 5

### **The Problem**

The Guardian reported that Ukrainians attempting to flee to safety in the UK have described their “intense frustration and anger at the bureaucratic hurdles and technical difficulties” in trying to get a visa under the new [Ukraine Family] scheme. Applicants told the paper they have been left in unfamiliar countries “wrestling with the complex application process” and hindered further by “difficulties uploading crucial documents or the application website was crashing”. Others have complained that there are “no appointment slots available to finalise their applications” or found themselves being asked to “post supporting documents to an office in Wandsworth” (The Week, 8 Mar. 2022).

### **The Solution**

It was our goal to create a user-friendly technological platform that could delegate the complex application process to willing legal volunteers who are well-versed in the UK immigration system and the often byzantine application process. We wanted a platform that was centralised, easy to understand, and easy to access. Our proposed solution is to use the Bryter platform as a central hub where individuals can follow a simple series of questions and upload all documents relevant to their specific visa application route. This would then allow volunteers to access them and complete the visa process on their behalf, helping to reduce the anxiety of fleeing your home and competing with bureaucratic processes.

We have made a rough outline of what the questioning would look like, it can be found here: [https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVODm6tfl=/?invite\\_link\\_id=839601920559](https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVODm6tfl=/?invite_link_id=839601920559)

We have also tried to compile a list of the main organisations currently seeking to help those fleeing. The Ukrainian migrants who are using the Bryter application will be able to download this document at the end of the process, so that, regardless of their current needs, they will always have access to more information. The relevant links are also listed below:

British Red Cross: email [ukraine@freemovement.org.uk](mailto:ukraine@freemovement.org.uk) to request free immigration advice  
<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee/help-for-refugees-from-ukraine>

DLA PIPER: [projectu@dlapiper.com](mailto:projectu@dlapiper.com) | <https://advice-ukraine.co.uk/>

Took over the **Ukraine Advice Project UK**, which consists of a group of volunteer legal professionals with immigration and asylum expertise. They provide free contact to Ukrainian citizens (and others fleeing Ukraine) with free legal advice on UK immigration, visas and asylum from qualified and regulated lawyers.

Ukraine Justice Alliance [contact@ukrainejusticealliance.com](mailto:contact@ukrainejusticealliance.com)

Lawyers, law firms and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have formed a coalition offering legal expertise and support to Ukrainian people, Ukrainian NGOs, civil society organisations and the government of Ukraine.

KNP Law: <https://ukrainelegalaid.org/#/>

Budapest-based law firm offering its services pro bono to Ukrainian refugees looking to settle in Hungary and other countries. Has accepted 500+ lawyers from international community offering pro bono services