

09.08.2023

To

**Mr Benjamin Netanyahu**  
**Prime Minister of Israel**

**Mr Bezalel Smotrich**  
**Minster of Finance**

In the recent hours it was published in the media (Adir Yanko, Hadar Gil-Ed, 09.08.2023, "Ynet") that the Ministry of Finance has decided not to renew the health services for the Ukrainian refugees who have entered Israel since the outbreak of the war in the Ukraine.

**The Refugee Organizational Forum, HIAS Israel, and the 'Israeli Friends of Ukraine' organization call on you, Honorable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, to act immediately to continue providing basic health services to this population, which currently consists of approximately 14,000 refugees, most of whom are women, children and the elderly.**

The State of Israel's agreement to take in Ukrainian refugees was the right thing to do and even now there is no reason to deny them the medical services they have received so far. The humanitarian organizations help Ukrainian refugees every day who need treatments, tests, and medicines. Since the morning hours, with the publication of the Ministry of Finance's decision, we have been receiving requests for help from Ukrainian refugees who are asked to vacate hospital beds and are being refused further treatment.

The decision of the Ministry of Finance not to renew the budgeting of health services for the Ukrainian refugees will seriously harm their health and may increase to the point of risking their lives. If the decision of the Ministry of Finance is indeed implemented, thousands will be cut off from medical treatments and their lives abandoned to their own fate.

We call on the offices of the Prime Minister and the Treasury to find the necessary solutions and change this difficult decision.

**Thank you for your urgent attention,**

**Best regards,**

**Yair Leibel**  
**Policy advocate**  
**The Refugee Rights Forum**

**Lawyer Sivan Carmel**  
**Hias Iseael**  
**CEO**

**Hana Zharove**  
**Israeli Friends of Ukraine**  
**NGO manager**

Copies:

Mr Moshe Arbel – Minister of Health and Interior

Mr Ya'akov Margi – Minister of Health