



**20 December 2024**

## **Community Update – Transition to 851 Resolution of Status Visa for 786 Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) Visa Holders**

In early December 2024, a national delegation from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) and state-based Hromada organisations met with representatives from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) to discuss the progress of the transition to 851 Resolution of Status visas for holders of 786 Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) visas.

The Ukrainian delegation raised concerns about initial challenges in the transition process e.g. offers not being sent to all family members and priority requests not being actioned. The DHA apologised for these initial challenges and noted that this is a customised pathway available only to Ukrainian 786 visa holders and the process was still being refined. The DHA provided some recommendations (see below) to make the process as smooth as possible. The DHA also indicated a Ukrainian language ‘fact sheet’ would be provided shortly, which would be uploaded on the DHA website and provided to the AFUO for distribution.

The DHA confirmed that the Federal Government is committed to displaced Ukrainians and assisting them to rebuild their lives in Australia. The DHA reiterated that offers for an 851 Resolution of Status Visa are currently only being offered on a case by case basis to Ukrainian nationals who accepted a 786 Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) visa. The benefits of an 851 Resolution of Status visa are available [here](#).

The DHA confirmed that permanent residency options for displaced Ukrainians holding other visa types (e.g. Temporary Protection, Bridging, Student etc) are being actively considered, and information on pathways to permanent residency for these visa holders will be provided when it becomes available.

The DHA provided the following progress update (as at 4 December 2024) on 851 Resolution of Status visa offers and acceptances:

- There are 3,566 displaced Ukrainians holding a 786 Humanitarian visa in Australia
- 1,227 have been made an offer
- 1,093 have accepted the offer
- Fifty (50) 851 Resolution of Status visas have been granted, with an anticipated 200 more being granted by the end of December

The DHA estimated that all **offers** for 851 Resolution of Status visas would be issued by **March/April 2025**, with all 851 Resolution of Status visas **granted** by end of **May 2025** (subject to satisfactory completion of required checks). The DHA is currently prioritising offers on the basis of visa expiry dates and requests for prioritisation made via the DHA [webform](#).

The DHA confirmed that priority will only be **considered** to those who have requested priority via the [DHA webform](#), and priority will only be **granted** for those with compelling circumstances that can only be resolved by holding an 851 Resolution of Status visa.

The DHA made the following comments regarding the 851 Resolution of Status visa acceptance process:

- Please ensure your contact details are correct by following the “Next Steps” instructions here: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/ukraine-visa-support/offer-of-resolution-status-visa-case-by-case-basis-ukrainian-786-temp-humanitarian-concern-visa-holders>
- If a student holds a 786 Humanitarian visa and other family members do not, then they need to contact [Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au)
- Each offer must be accepted separately. In the case of children, a parent must accept the child’s offer.
- Once an application is lodged, the granting of the visa is subject to successful:
  - Health Checks
  - Character Checks
  - Police Checks
  - Biometrics collection (fingerprints and photographs)
- Biometrics collection is mandatory for everyone except children under 10 (for whom only a photo will be required)
- Please make every effort to accept your biometric collection timeslot, however if you are delayed, please contact [Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au)
- If you are unable to travel for Biometrics please contact [Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:Ukraine.786to851@homeaffairs.gov.au)
- Police checks can take time, so request them as soon as possible
- Health checks are necessary. Some existing health checks can be reused, however with changes of circumstances some further checks may be necessary.

The DHA also answered the following specific questions:

**Question:** Is there an “end date” to the 851 Resolution of Status Visa i.e. can you remain on the 851 Visa for an extended period and not become an Australian citizen?

**Response:** There is no end date to the visa, 851 visa holders can remain on the visa for an extended period of time and live in Australia as a permanent resident and not become an Australian citizen.

**Question:** Does the ability to travel to and from Australia end after 5 years? What happens if you wish to travel after the 5 year period?

**Answer:** The travel facility on the visa expires after 5 years. Permanent residents who wish to travel after their travel facility expires can apply for a ‘[resident return visa](#)’ which allows travel in and out of Australia for a period of usually 5 years.

The AFUO will continue to liaise with the DHA and will provide further information, including the Ukrainian-language fact sheet, when it becomes available.

Please raise any issues you may encounter with your local Hromada representative.