

Introduction

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has resulted in over 6 million Ukrainian refugees recorded globally (UNHCR, 2023). While neighboring countries have been generally welcoming to Ukrainian refugees, LGBTIQ refugees from Ukraine face unique challenges, including marginalization, hostility, and even violence.

To address their specific challenges, displaced LGBTIQ individuals fleeing Ukraine have relied heavily on LGBTIQ organizations in nearby countries for support. ORAM's staff and non-profit registration in Germany (ORAM gGmbH) positioned us well to be effective in providing emergency support.

History

ORAM began its support of displaced LGBTIQ people fleeing Ukraine in March 2022, providing emergency short-term housing in Germany and throughout the European Union. ORAM provided national organizations in neighboring countries, including Prague Pride and Gender Stream, grants for operational and emergency support of queer Ukrainian refugees. In May 2022, ORAM launched a longer-term housing option in Berlin, Germany.

ORAM hosted a two-day roundtable discussion in Berlin in June 2022 attended by activists, human rights defenders, and funders to discuss support for LGBTIQ refugees displaced by the war and gaps in service. ORAM also conducted in-depth research to understand the unique challenges of LGBTIQ Ukrainian refugees in the EU. This resulted in a needs assessment report published in November 2022. The main needs identified were improved employment opportunities and access to safe and secure housing.

Program Initiatives

Temporary Housing

ORAM's support of displaced LGBTIQ individuals fleeing Ukraine began thanks to a partnership between Airbnb.org and Alight, ORAM's parent organization. Through this ongoing partnership with Airbnb.org, ORAM connects LGBTIQ Ukrainians with short-term housing for a maximum stay of 30 days in Germany and across Europe. As longer-term housing emerged as one of the greatest needs of LGBTIQ refugees from Ukraine, ORAM launched a longer-term housing option in May 2022 and now offers up to six months of paid housing for LGBTIQ people displaced by the war in Ukraine.



ORAM provided...



nights of housing to

430

LGBTIQ refugees from Ukraine



LGBTIQ refugees with longer-term housing



LGBTIQ refugees enrolled in certified job skills training programs



LGBTIQ Ukrainians reached through community events

Case management & community building

Our staff provides case management support on an as-needed basis for those benefiting from our housing program, through which we learned of the growing need for employment opportunities in Germany.

In August 2022, ORAM partnered with TENT Partnership for Refugees, a global network of companies helping refugees access the job market through training and mentorship, to connect displaced LGBTIQ refugees from Ukraine with mentorship opportunities. We also established a partnership with NIYA, a career management platform based in the UK, to provide training and other resources to queer Ukrainians and third country nationals in the data and tech industries.

ORAM regularly hosts community events, from workshops and certified training to casual community building events.

Economic empowerment & skills trainings

Thanks to a generous grant award from AGEE, ORAM established an economic empowerment project for LBTIQ women refugees fleeing Ukraine in Central and Eastern Europe. This project connects LBTIQ Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals with comprehensive job skills training and mentorship programs. After completing training and mentorship, ORAM connects participants with job opportunities in the data and tech industries.

Program Partners

Airbnb.org and **Alight**, ORAM's parent organization, have made our short-term housing program possible. Other organizations that helped us provide short-term housing outside of Germany were **Booking.com** and **Hilton**. We have collaborated with a number of organisations and initiatives to reach more clients.

ORAM connects participants to several training and mentorship organizations, including **TENT**, **NIYA**, and **KIRON**, an NGO that provides free online learning opportunities for refugees.

ORAM's economic empowerment program partners with **Lambda Warsaw**, who will help establish a work center in Poland where Lambda will hire LBTIQ Ukrainian women refugees.

ORAM has facilitated employment job workshops in collaboration with **IRC Germany**.

Visa and **DKB** have supported ORAM's Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Program.

ORAM is a member of **Bündnis Queere Nothilfe Ukraine**, a consortium of organizations working with LGBTIQ refugees from Ukraine.