

Law on the Status of Displaced Persons and Refugees

Publisher [National Legislative Bodies](#)

Author Republic of Croatia

Publication Date 2 November 1993

Reference HRV-125

Cite as *Law on the Status of Displaced Persons and Refugees* [], 2 November 1993, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4de30.html> [accessed 26 November 2013]

Comments This is an unofficial translation. The original Act was published in the Official Gazette under reference 96/1993, dated 25 October 1993.

Disclaimer This is not a UNHCR publication. UNHCR is not responsible for, nor does it necessarily endorse, its content. Any views expressed are solely those of the author or publisher and do not necessarily reflect those of UNHCR, the United Nations or its Member States.

Chapter I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Republic of Croatia guarantees, depending on the economic abilities, necessary accommodation, food, education of children, health care and assistance in obtaining other vital necessities to all persons who are, on the basis of this Act, acknowledged the status of displaced persons or refugees.

Chapter II - DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES STATUS

Article 2

A person from the war endangered zone on the Croatian territory who, as evaluated by the organ of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or by the competent command of the Croatian army, fled his domicile in order to avoid immediate life jeopardy by the aggression or other armed action either on his own or through the municipal civil defense office, the Croatian Red Cross, Social work centers etc. is acknowledged the status of displaced person or refugee.

A displaced person, pursuant to this Act, is a person from Paragraph 1 of this Article who has fled an area of the Republic of Croatia to another area of the Republic of Croatia.

A refugee, pursuant to this Act, is a person from Paragraph 1 of this Article who has fled abroad.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia proclaims the war endangered zone.

Article 3

The displaced person and refugee status is denied to the person:

who has been found guilty by the competent state authorities of committing or organizing criminal acts regulated in parts XIV, XV, and XVIII of the General Criminal Act of the Republic of Croatia ("The Official Gazette", No. 31/93 - revision and 35/93), part XIX of The Criminal Act of the Republic of Croatia ("The Official Gazette", No. 32/93 - revision and 38/93), and the Act on Criminal Acts of Subversive and Terrorist Activities Against the State Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of the Republic of Croatia ("The Official Gazette", No. 74/92.

in other stipulated cases.

Article 4

If the reasons of Article 3, Paragraph 1 of this Act existed before the person has been acknowledged the displaced person or refugee status, and the competent authority found out about them later, or they appeared after the recognition of the status, the person will be denied the status of displaced person or refugee.

Article 5

The Regional Center for Displaced Persons (hereinafter: the Regional Center) competent for a municipality, a city, or the City of Zagreb on the area where the displaced person lives decides on recognition or denial of the displaced person status.

The Regional Center can transfer the authority of Paragraph 1 of this Article to the competent Social work center with the permission of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

The Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees at the Government of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Office) decides on the recognition of the refugee status on the basis of the documentation from which is evident that a person who fled abroad had the acknowledged refugee status in a foreign country.

The person of Paragraph 3 of this Article is acknowledged the refugee status upon his return from abroad if he had a domicile on the territory of the Republic of Croatia before the fleeing to which a return is not temporarily possible.

An appeal against the decision referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, which rejects the request for recognition of the displaced person status, and an appeal against the decision which denies that status, may be lodged before the Office.

An appeal against the decision referred to in Paragraph 3 of this Article, which rejects the request for recognition of the refugee status, cannot be lodged, but administrative lawsuit proceedings can be instituted.

Article 6

The Regional Center keeps records pursuant to its data and the data received from Social work centers, concerning displaced persons, their accommodation and assistance in accordance with instructions received from the Office.

The Office keeps records on refugees referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

In its efforts of searching for missing persons, the Croatian Red Cross may use records kept by regional centers and the Office.

Data on number, accommodation, caring of, and assistance to displaced persons and refugees can be obtained and used only upon the written request filed to the Office, and approved by the Head of the Office himself.

Article 7

The Regional Center i.e. the Social work center that decides on determining the displaced person status is obligated, within 48 hours from the day this status has been acknowledged, to give notice of the displaced person's accommodation to police administration i.e. a police precinct of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to register the displaced person staying in the place of his reception and accommodation. At the same time, the Regional Center i.e. the Social work center is responsible for notifying the competent administrative authority for defense about persons older than 18.

Article 8

A person who has been acknowledged the displaced person status on the basis of this Act can, in his residence place, exercise his rights i.e. obtain public documents which are issued pursuant to special regulations issued i.e. obtained in the place of his domicile on the basis of the certificate proving the displaced person status.

Article 9

The displaced person status ceases:

1. by a decision of the domicile County 1 (županijsko) presidency of a displaced person, i.e. by a decision of the presidency of the City of Zagreb according to which the displaced person may return to his domicile because the reasons that had precipitated his fleeing ceased;
2. on the basis of a person's decision to return to his domicile;
3. if a displaced person refuses organized, necessary accommodation or other proffered forms of assistance;
4. if a displaced person does not perform duties stipulated in Articles 22 and 23 of this Act.

The county presidency, i.e. the City of Zagreb presidency delivers the decision of paragraph 1, Point 1 of this Article to the Office no later than 7 days after being made.

Article 10

A person having the displaced person status shall, upon citation of the competent governmental authority to perform military or labor duty, have the rights prescribed by this Act ceased only in the extent to which these rights are recognized in a place of the person's performance of the duty.

Article 11

The competent state authority that has issued citation to military or labor duty for a displaced person has to inform about it the Regional center competent for a municipality, a city, i.e. the City of Zagreb where the person has been received and accommodated.

Article 12

The Regional Center or Social work center that has decided on the acknowledgment of the displaced person status issues a document proving this status on the basis of which the person effects necessary assistance.

Forms for the document of Paragraph of this Article are determined by the Office.

Chapter III - ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

Article 13

A person having been acknowledged the displaced person status is guaranteed:

1. necessary accommodation,
2. food,
3. regular financial assistance to persons with no income in the monthly amount set by the Office with the approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia,
4. assistance in social adaptation and psychological aid,
5. education of children,
6. health care,
7. assistance in obtaining other vital necessities (transport charges, funeral charges).

Family who has accommodated a displaced person, and displaced persons who run household for themselves have the right to a regular financial assistance which monthly amount is set by the Office with the approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 14

Necessary accommodation, pursuant to Article 13 of this Act, is considered to be a living area that is defined with respect to the number and age of the family members of a displaced person as well as their specific needs depending upon their state of health and level of education. This accommodation should satisfy the basic needs of the persons.

Those displaced persons accommodated in institutions or in a flat or a house, and who have to leave it shall be provided with another suitable accommodation.

Displaced persons may be temporarily relocated to a displaced person community, a refugee center, a center of reception, camps, private homes, hotels and other tourist-related facilities placed at their disposal pursuant to the regulations on prohibition of use and taking possession.

In order to insure the necessary accommodation capacity, the Office may order social institutions, residence-type educational institutions, hotels and other tourist organizations, owned by organizations or other legal and physical entities seated in the Republic of Croatia, to organize accommodation, catering and other vital requirements for displaced persons.

The Office upon the previous approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia stipulates conditions for organizing the above mentioned services for displaced persons, pursuant to Paragraph 4 of this Article, as well as the amount of remuneration for services proffered.

The remuneration stated in Paragraph 5 of this Article is to be charged from the funds of the "King Zvonimir" Republic Fund.

Article 15

In order to cater for displaced persons in the place of their reception and accommodation, meals in adequate catering capacity (social care institutions, resorts, hotels, and others) or assistance in food (basic provisions) are ensured or organized.

Assistance in food and other vital necessities, no matter whether they are given in the form of basic life provisions or in other goods, are given to the persons accommodated institutions, families, or to families which have given shelter to displaced persons, pursuant to uniform standards for each group, stipulated by the Office with the approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 16

Displaced persons accommodated in a house, and those who have found by themselves legally the accommodation in a house, a flat or a part of a flat, a weekend house or other object, where they can organize their lives and household, will receive assistance in the form of standardized food and other necessities packages, coupons and financial assistance for buying certain goods, and under conditions and in the manner determined in Article 15 of this Act.

Article 17

Social adaptation and psychological assistance of displaced persons is realized by their active role in the life of their new milieu, considering their age, occupation, psycho-physiological abilities, inclinations and interests.

The program of social adaptation and psychological assistance is established by the Office.

Humanitarian organizations and individuals who would like to give psychological assistance or assistance in social adaptation to displaced persons have to acquire a permission of the Office for carrying on with these activities. They also have to submit quarter reports on their activities to the Office.

Article 18

Education of displaced persons' children is realized through the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Free of charge student books and supply are ensured to displaced persons' children, as well as free of charge transportation to schools, catering, and appropriate financial assistance for accommodation of pupils and students at pupils' and students' dormitories as long as they have the displaced persons status i.e. until the end of the academic year.

Health insurance of displaced persons is effected in accordance with the existing regulations on health care and health insurance.

Displaced persons have the right on free of charge health care.

Article 19

In the place of reception and relocation of displaced persons to a particular social or other institution where a group of displaced persons is accommodated, or for the local self-government area with more displaced persons, a group leader is appointed.

The leader is appointed from among displaced persons by the Head of the Regional Center.

The leader represents displaced persons as regards their requests concerning accommodation conditions, quality of food and other vital necessities, and he coordinates and manages the activities of displaced persons with a view to self organizing in the camp.

The group leader cooperates with a regional center, a center for social work, and humanitarian organizations in order to ensure assistance for displaced persons.

Article 20

In order to ensure the return of displaced persons and refugees to their domicile, in cooperation with the municipal i.e. city council for a particular municipality i.e. a city establishes the plan of displaced persons and refugees return, and ensures the necessary conditions (transportation, escort and reception in the domicile, as well as necessary assistance).

In view of organizing displaced persons and refugees return to their domicile, a committee for the return is formed, consisting of the representatives of displaced persons and refugees from particular places.

Chapter IV - RESOURCES FOR PROVIDING WITH ASSISTANCE

Article 21

Assistance recourses necessary for exercising of displaced persons' and refugees' rights are obtained from the "King Zvonimir" Republic Fund.

Chapter V - OBLIGATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

Article 22

Persons acknowledged the displaced person status are obligated to perform duties established by the competent Regional Center at the arrangement with the group leader.

Displaced persons are also obligated to perform duties concerning their everyday life, like household tasks (cleaning of the premises where they live or which they use, laundering, ironing, shopping, cooking, taking care of children, account-keeping and other professional administrative work).

Article 23

Those displaced persons who receive regular salaries, retirement allowances or other income are obligated to participate in their subsistence expenses (necessary accommodation and organized catering costs) to the amount allocated by the Office with the approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Moneys referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article are payable to the credit of the account of the "King Zvonimir" Republic Fund.

The obligation of a displaced person to participate in subsistence expenses is defined by the regional center competent pursuant to a place of accommodation.

Chapter VI - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

This Act is, in a corresponding manner, also applicable to those persons who had to leave their domicile in order to avoid life jeopardy due to natural disaster.

Article 25

The Executive Order on the Status of Displaced Persons and Refugees ("the Official Gazette", No. 71/92) becomes invalid on the day of this Act coming into force.

Article 26

This Act shall come into force on the eight day from the day of its publication in "the Official Gazette".

Search Refworld

by keyword

and / or country

[Advanced Search](#) | [Search Tips](#)

Countries

- [Croatia](#)

Topics

- [Refugee / Asylum law](#)