**List of action steps for May 3 Blue Skies NYU DC event**

**Deepen integration and understanding for refugee children and their families.**

An important goal is to encourage outreach and connection to refugee children and families in your community. Promote events that help host country children and teens in the host countries learn about the needs, cultural norms, and impacts of war on their new friends and classmates. One opportunity to get involved is through Welcome.US. This group seeks to share information with the American people and the private sector on how to support newcomers to the United States, including newly arrived Ukrainians. You can learn more by visiting Welcome.US.

**Support efforts to strengthen and expand refugee resettlement in the U.S. and other countries**

One way to support efforts to accelerate and expand refugee resettlement is through building capacity for resettling refugees in the U.S. The U.S. government - through the U.S. Department of State’s U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) - partners with ten non-profit resettlement agencies that collectively operate a national network of affiliate offices throughout the United States to facilitate the resettlement of refugees. To learn about specific volunteer opportunities to support refugees in your community, you can reach out to the local affiliate office of a resettlement agency.

**Organize or support a Welcome Corps group to sponsor refugees in the U.S.**

Welcome Corps is a new private sponsorship program that enables everyday Americans to play a leading role in welcoming refugees arriving in the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). The Welcome Corps is an innovation in the U.S. approach to domestic resettlement of refugees admitted through the USRAP that leverages the engagement of private sponsors to increase and strengthen U.S. resettlement capacity. Go to [www.welcomecorps.org](http://www.welcomecorps.org)
Support avenues for return and reintegration

Teenagers in particular are often hoping to return to Ukraine and build their adult lives in a postwar Ukraine. To ensure that this goal is being supported by the international community, follow deliberations and news from events like the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023 (URC 2023) and encourage private sector, nonprofit, and official support for youth-focused elements. Being held jointly by the UK and Ukraine in London in June 21-23, URC 2023 will focus on mobilizing international support for Ukraine's economic and social stabilization and recovery from the effects of war, including through emergency assistance for immediate needs and financing private sector participation in the reconstruction process. See the section of the Draft Ukraine Recovery Plan titled “Protection of children's rights and return of children temporarily displaced abroad” working group at https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/621f88db25fbf24758792dd8/62d81572bcbd290c70893809_Protection%20of%20children%20rights%20and%20return%20of%20children%20temporarily%20displaced%20abroad.pdf

Advocate for and fund youth access to encrypted communication

While widely commercially available, access to networks (or knowledge of technical details) can make it hard for young people left behind enemy lines to communicate with the outside world. We currently rely on traditional media, corporate social media companies, and anecdotal reports from loved ones about their experiences and needs. The recordings we’ve collected reveal that young people are witness to a range of atrocities and war crimes and that their facility with technology makes them capable of gathering evidence of these events in real time for later prosecution – but only if they are able to collect and share their experiences safely and quickly so they can be erased from local devices – protecting them from detection and potential harm.

Foster research and resources for culturally sensitive mental health care
Throughout the recordings we hear the children and teenagers deal with the PTSD associated with what they witnessed in Ukraine and the aftermath of their displacement. They also demonstrate how culturally specific the relationship to those feelings can be. Interestingly, not one of them uses or seems to know the term PTSD in English. In addition, the words they struggle to find in English on the recordings tend to be words related to war and the military - vocabulary that would have seemed unnecessary in their regular English language education. The recordings reveal a real need for ongoing culturally sensitive mental health care for displaced persons and helping them build tools in the language of their host country to express their experiences and feelings - unique from simple language acquisition.

**Stay informed and inform others**

Participate in informational efforts by advocating for Ukraine on your social media. Follow Facebook, Instagram, Twitter accounts of organizations such as Razom, Save Ukraine as well as the International Rescue Committee and UNICEF for the latest action items and how you can advocate for Ukraine in your community and beyond. You can also follow and support upcoming events on sites like the Razom Events page.

**Fundraise for Ukraine and refugees/IDPs**

Run a fundraiser on behalf of organizations like Razom and feel free to get as creative as you can. People have started personal fundraisers for organizations on social media, host benefit concerts, poetry readings, dinners, make tattoos, produce art, and so many creative ways that get people in their communities involved in helping Ukraine.

**Write and call your elected officials**

If you are a student, you can reach out to elected officials in your home communities as well as where you go to school. This outreach will be more effective if you can reference specific pending legislation or budget deliberations. For example, Humanitarian Parole through Uniting for Ukraine.
provides a parole pathway for Ukrainian citizens forced to flee their homes as a result of Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine but is limited in duration and scope. Individuals granted parole through Uniting for Ukraine will be able to travel to and stay in the United States for up to two years.

**Experience and learn about Ukrainian culture and history.**

This can be done by visiting Ukraine House in DC (https://www.ukrainehouse.us/) which hosts many community cultural events and social events. If not in DC, you can find local Ukrainian events in your community. You can also try Ukrainian food via a cookbook (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers put a Ukrainian cookbook together - https://www.allianceforukraine.org/articles/announcing-the-babusyas-kitchen-cookbook) or going to a Ukrainian restaurant ("Ruta" is opening up in DC’s Eastern Market in May 2023). Finally, it’s important to deepen your knowledge of current events and the history of Ukraine by reading Ukraine-related books, especially those by Serhii Plokhi or Timothy Snyder, or watching Timothy Snyder's viral youtube series on the making of modern Ukraine (his Yale lectures this year, filmed): https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_