

Humanitarian Crisis in East Ukraine: 730,000 Refugees. Moscow Invites Council of Europe to Visit Refugee Camps

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Moscow invites the Council of Europe mission to visit Russia's camps for Ukrainian refugees, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"We express our readiness to accept the Council of Europe mission for studying the situation in Ukrainian refugee camps on Russian territory," the ministry said in a statement.

The flow of Ukrainian refugees has increased dramatically since June. According to the latest data from Russian authorities, more than 730,000 Ukrainian citizens have fled the country since the beginning of the conflict between Ukrainian national forces and independence supporters in the southeastern regions.

Russia's Emergencies Ministry said earlier this week that providing help to Ukrainian refugees who came to Russia in an attempt to escape the conflict is its priority.

The ministry has established tent camps and temporary accommodation centers (TACs) in educational and cultural institutions, as well as rest houses, health camps and major sporting facilities, which house nearly 60,000 people, including more than 17,000 children.

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