

# Why Do We Have to Go?

## **Contents**

<i>A Note for Caregivers</i> .....	2
<i>Why Do We Have to Go?</i> [Main Story].....	3
<i>We Found Our Safer Place</i> [Praise Story] .....	4

The latest version of this Social Story and additional stories, as well as a mobile-friendly version, can be found on ACT– Autism Community Training’s website: [www.actcommunity.ca/resources-for-ukraine/](http://www.actcommunity.ca/resources-for-ukraine/)

## ***A Note for Caregivers***

The Stories in this download are part of a larger initiative to provide Stories to help Ukrainian families as they cope, seek safety, settle at a destination, and find or return home. Caregivers are the most frequent Social Story authors. They write for their child or someone in their care. In this project, we are honored to develop genuine Social Stories for you.

A Social Story describes a personally relevant topic following a defined writing format that is clear, meaningful, patient, and physically, socially, and emotionally safe. Initially developed for children diagnosed with autism, the first Social Stories described anxiety-producing situations with personally-tailored explanations of what happens in a given situation and why. A Social Story is tangible, giving a child, adolescent, or adult carefully chosen words that point out what is relevant and important, with time to consider the information. Today, Social Stories are an internationally respected evidence-based practice.

Most, but not all, of the Stories for Ukraine will arrive as a collection. Each download contains the Main Story. It may also include a coordinating Support Story that expands on the topic or a Praise Story to affirm and applaud learned concepts and skills.

As a caregiver, use your judgment to choose and implement the Stories. You may choose to use only the Main Story. In a few days, you may decide that the Support or Praise Story may be helpful. In general, look for the most comfortable setting possible and introduce each Story one at a time. You may personalize a Story by editing it as you read. Your best guide is your knowledge of the person in your care, current situation, and instincts as the caregiver.

With our sincere respect and continuing thoughts and prayers,

Carol Gray, Siobhan Timmins, and Catherine Faherty / Team Social Stories

## Why Do We Have to Go? [Main Story]



*Photo of a Ukrainian evacuation, Depositphotos.com.*

Sometimes, a country has to fight a war. People may have to evacuate. In a war, *evacuate* means to pack what is most important and leave the rest to go to a safer place.

When we evacuate, there may be room for me to bring one or two of my most precious things.

Many children have questions about evacuation. Children may think or ask, “Why do we have to go?” It may look okay outside and seem like the war is far away. It’s safer to leave before fighting is close by. The adults in my family will know when it is time for us to go.

Evacuation is one way that adult family members keep children safe. I may be able to help. My (mom/dad/caregiver) may have ideas about how I can help.

*\*With appreciation to Future Horizons, Inc., for permission to revise Stories from, “The New Social Story Book” (2010).*

## *We Found Our Safer Place* [Praise Story]



My country is fighting a war. Together with my people, we *evacuated* from Ukraine and traveled to a safer place.

Now, we are in a safer place. It's called \_\_\_\_\_.

We left looking for a safer place and we found it.

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