



**| Flash |**

# Political Asylum Service to Assist Russians Fleeing to France

F-2024-01-30a

Classification: TLP:CLEAR

Criticality: Medium

Intelligence Requirements: Geopolitical, Deep & Dark Web, Threat Actors

**January 30, 2024**

**Scope Note:** ZeroFox Intelligence is derived from a variety of sources, including—but not limited to—curated open-source accesses, vetted social media, proprietary data sources, and direct access to threat actors and groups through covert communication channels. Information relied upon to complete any report cannot always be independently verified. As such, ZeroFox applies rigorous analytic standards and tradecraft in accordance with best practices and includes caveat language and source citations to clearly identify the veracity of our Intelligence reporting and substantiate our assessments and recommendations. All sources used in this particular Intelligence product were **identified prior to 9:00 AM (EST) on January 30, 2024**; per cyber hygiene best practices, caution is advised when clicking on any third-party links.

## **| Flash | Political Asylum Service To Assist Russians Fleeing to France**

### **> Key Findings**

- Since its announcement on December 22, 2023, a “political asylum” service claiming to assist Russians with fleeing to France has been gaining traction on the Russian-language deep web community WWH-Club.
- Although not overtly advertised as such, the service is most likely targeting those seeking a legal means to avoid forced conscription into the Russian army (also known as mobilization) as the Russia-Ukraine war continues.
- ZeroFox can neither confirm nor deny the authenticity of the service or the claims made by the actor. At the time of writing, no successful deals have been recorded. While there are positive indicators the service may be credible, it remains plausible the actor is attempting to scam or unmask citizens in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan that are attempting to dodge mobilization drafts.

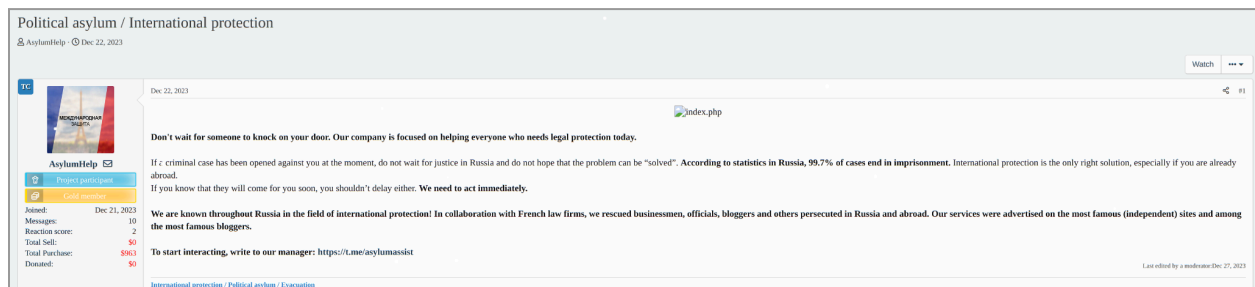
### **| Details**

Since its announcement on December 22, 2023, a “political asylum” service claiming to assist Russians with fleeing to France has been gaining traction on the Russian-language deep web community WWH-Club. “AsylumHelp”, a positive-reputation actor, started the

“Political Asylum/International protection” thread in December 2023, claiming that the process is entirely legal.

This latest post likely follows rumors of a new, large-scale mobilization looming in Russia. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, ZeroFox has observed numerous posts in Russian-language deep and dark web (DDW) communities by threat actors seeking to avoid being implicated in mass mobilization.

- The service is not overtly advertised as a means to avoid forced conscription into the Russian army but rather as “helping everyone who needs legal protection today.”
- The post claims to help Russian citizens against whom a criminal case has been opened as, according to the actor, 99.7 percent of these cases end with imprisonment.
- The actor claims that the only way to avoid this is to receive asylum by moving abroad.



## WWH-Club post advertising the political asylum service

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

The post offers numerous incentives to threat actors seeking to purchase the services, with AsylumHelp claiming that the fees an asylum seeker needs to pay will be nullified by the benefits attained.

- AsylumHelp did not specify a price in the post, claiming instead that the exact price would follow a consultation. The actor claimed to accept escrow.

- The actor claimed that, if successful, Russian asylum seekers will be entitled to EUR 1,200 per month in addition to “real estate provided to our wards.” Additionally, buyers could expect social privileges, such as free insurance and free travel.
- AsylumHelp is likely based in France, given they promote themselves as a group of “renowned advocates” who are easy to find in databases and legal registers in France.

Since the original post, AsylumHelp has added additional services to the offering.

- AsylumHelp recently claimed the service also operates in Ukraine, likely to enable males of conscription age to leave the country.
- On January 19, 2024, the actor announced additional legal services, such as procuring a talent visa for France, which is usually issued to exceptionally-skilled individuals and grants the recipient a permit to reside in France.
- On January 28, 2024, AsylumHelp offered an evacuation service in problematic cases, such those with debts or of conscription age in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. This likely means the threat actor has contacts in these countries able to provide emergency transport and a means to leave these countries.

TC



AsylumHelp

Project participant

Gold member

Joined: Dec 21, 2023

Messages: 10

Reaction score: 2

Total Sell: \$0

Total Purchase: \$963

Donated: \$0

Jan 19, 2024

**Additional services:**

- 1) Assistance in obtaining a [Talent visa \(France\)](#).
- 2) Assistance in obtaining a [French residence permit](#).
- 3) Assistance in relocation (renting - purchasing housing, assistance in integrating the whole family).
- 4) Assistance in obtaining [visas to France](#).
- 5) Assistance in selecting French lawyers of any specialization.
- 6) Assistance in opening and maintaining a business [in France](#).
- 7) Assistance in resolving commercial issues and disputes.
- 8) [Breaking through the Interpol line](#)

International protection / Political asylum / Evacuation

Report

TC



AsylumHelp

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Gold member

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Messages: 10

Reaction score: 2

Total Sell: \$0

Total Purchase: \$963

Donated: \$0

Yesterday at 5:09 PM

**Additionally :**

[Evacuation with any problems](#)  
(ang. Business, Debts, Conscription age, and TD).  
Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan.  
Write: <https://t.me/asylumassist>

International protection / Political asylum / Evacuation

Report

**Updated post offering additional services,  
including talent visa procurement and evacuation**

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

ZeroFox can neither confirm nor deny the authenticity of the service or the claims made by the actor. If credible, the service has significant implications for the streamlining of immigration from Russia to Europe by finding and utilizing recognized legal mechanisms, such as asylum-seeking and talent visa procurement. There are factors that support its credibility, including:

- The actor's positive reputation.
- AsylumHelp deposited the sum required to start doing business on the forum—in this case, USD 1,000.
- The actor has been regularly adding information to the thread and answering questions posted by interested actors.

However, it remains plausible AsylumHelp is seeking to scam or unmask citizens in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan that are attempting to dodge mobilization drafts. No successful deals have been recorded, and no public evidence was presented to affirm that the alleged "group of advocates" is authentic.

## **| Appendix A: Traffic Light Protocol for Information Dissemination**

|                                | <b>Red</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Amber</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?</b> | <b>Sources may use</b><br><b>TLP:RED</b> when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused. | <b>Sources may use</b><br><b>TLP:AMBER</b> when information requires support to be effectively acted upon but carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.                                                                                                           |
| <b>HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?</b>   | <b>Recipients may NOT share</b><br><b>TLP:RED</b> with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it is originally disclosed.                                     | <b>Recipients may ONLY share</b><br><b>TLP:AMBER</b> information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm.<br><b>Note that</b><br><b>TLP:AMBER+STRICT</b> restricts sharing to the organization only. |
|                                | <b>Green</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Clear</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?</b> | <b>Sources may use</b><br><b>TLP:GREEN</b> when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations, as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.              | <b>Sources may use</b><br><b>TLP:CLEAR</b> when information carries minimal or no risk of misuse in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?</b>   | <b>Recipients may share</b><br><b>TLP:GREEN</b> information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community but not via publicly accessible channels.                            | <b>Recipients may share</b><br><b>TLP:CLEAR</b> information without restriction, subject to copyright controls.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## **| Appendix B: ZeroFox Intelligence Probability Scale**

All ZeroFox intelligence products leverage probabilistic assessment language in analytic judgments. Qualitative statements used in these judgments refer to associated probability ranges, which state the likelihood of occurrence of an event or development. Ranges are used to avoid a false impression of accuracy. This scale is a standard that aligns with how readers should interpret such terms.

| Almost No Chance | Very Unlikely | Unlikely | Roughly Even Chance | Likely | Very Likely | Almost Certain |
|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|--------|-------------|----------------|
| 1-5%             | 5-20%         | 20-45%   | 45-55%              | 55-80% | 80-95%      | 95-99%         |