

Ukraine to Launch Evacuation From Liberated Kherson Amid Energy Crisis

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Residents of Kherson greet Ukrainian rescue workers who returned after liberating Kherson. **State Emergency Service of Ukraine**

Ukrainian authorities [said](#) they will soon begin voluntary evacuations from the liberated southern city of Kherson and nearby areas as Russian strikes have hammered the country's power grid at the onset of winter.

Remaining residents of Kherson — as well as Mykolaiv 65 kilometers to the northwest — whose homes were damaged in Russia's invasion can spend “several months” in western Ukrainian regions until winter temperatures subside, Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

“They’re expected in most areas of the country,” she said during a visit to Kherson and Mykolaiv on Saturday.

“Everyone can voluntarily leave for safer regions and the state will provide them with transportation, accommodation, medical support, and so on,” Vereshchuk [said](#) in a televised

conference, according to the state-run Ukrinform news agency.

Vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities are among those to be moved to safer locations for the winter, Vereshchuk added.

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She named mine clearance, providing heat and restoring electricity and water supplies as additional priorities for Ukrainian authorities following Russian forces' Nov. 11 retreat from Kherson that ended eight months of occupation.

Russia has carried out a slew of aerial strikes on Ukraine's critical infrastructure in recent weeks, leaving over [10 million](#) people across the country without power.

Ukraine's biggest private operator DTEK on Saturday [urged](#) Ukrainians to ease pressure on the national power grid by spending "three or four months" outside the country.

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The Russian military said 115,000 residents of Kherson, which had a pre-war population of more than 280,000, had been evacuated before it withdrew from the city 10 days ago.

Kyiv has decried the evacuations as forced deportations, which Amnesty International classifies as a potential war crime.

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