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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Thursday , March 02 2023|

## Biden urges confirmation of Julie Su as labor secretary to protect workers

WASHINGTON, March 1 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden on Wednesday urged the U.S. Senate to quickly confirm Julie Su as Labor Department secretary and hailed his nominee for her past work to increase worker wages and expand protections.

Biden, speaking alongside Su at a White House event celebrating her nomination, said she had led efforts to establish and support union jobs in her current role as the department's deputy secretary and in past labor positions in California.

"She has increased the minimum wage, cracked down on wage theft, protected trafficked workers, established and enforced workplace safety standards, and so much more," Biden said.

"I ask the United States Senate to move this nomination quickly so we can continue (to) build (an) economy that works for everyone," Biden said, while praising outgoing department secretary Marty Walsh for his pro-union work.

Biden aims billions in taxpayer money at companies' labor, supply practices New York to pay millions to protesters arrested at George Floyd demonstration US Senate moves toward ending 'forever war' authorizations U.S. President Biden at the White House in Washington, U.S. U.S. President Joe Biden speaks at an event nominating Julie Su to serve as labor secretary from the East Room at the White House in Washington, U.S., March 1, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis Su, a daughter of Chinese immigrants, said that she had spent her career fighting for workers' rights.

"So to all workers who are toiling in the shadows, to workers who are organizing for power and respect in the workplace - know that we see you, we stand with you and we will fight for you," said Su, 54.

Union and labor officials, as well as progressives in Biden's Democratic Party, pushed the Biden administration to appoint Su as department head, citing her familiarity with the agency and labor policy.

A 2013 report on her work as California labor commissioner, a position she held from 2011-2018, found her tenure resulted in a spike in enforcement activity.



## US seeks allies' backing for possible China sanctions over Ukraine war

WASHINGTON, March 1 (Reuters) - The United States is sounding out close allies about the possibility of imposing new sanctions on China if Beijing provides military support to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to four U.S. officials and other sources.

The consultations, which are still at a preliminary stage, are intended to drum up support from a range of countries, especially those in the wealthy Group of 7 (G7), to coordinate support for any possible restrictions.

It was not clear what specific sanctions Washington will propose. The conversations have not been previously disclosed.

The White House and the U.S. Treasury Department, a lead agency on the imposition of sanctions, declined to comment.

Washington and its allies have said in recent weeks that China

was considering providing weapons to Russia, which Beijing denies. Aides to U.S. President Joe Biden have not publicly provided evidence.

Russia tries to close ring on Bakhmut as Ukrainians mount 'furious resistance' Nigeria's Tinubu defends win in disputed presidential vote Erdogan indicates Turkey elections to be in May, three months after quake They have also warned China directly against doing so, including in meetings between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping as well as during a Feb. 18 in-person meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of a global security conference in Munich.

The Biden administration's initial steps to counter Chinese support for Russia have included informal outreach at the staff and diplomatic levels, including the Treasury Department, sources familiar with the matter said.

They said officials were laying the groundwork for potential action against Beijing with the core group of countries that were most supportive of sanctions imposed on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine a year ago.

INTELLIGENCE One official from a country consulted by Washington said that they had only seen scant intelligence backing up the claims about China considering possible military assistance to Russia. A U.S. official, however, said they were providing detailed accounts of the intelligence to allies.

China's role in the Russia-Ukraine war is expected to be among the topics when Biden meets with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the White House on Friday. Before that in New Delhi on Wednesday and Thursday, the war will be discussed by foreign ministers from dozens of countries, including Russia, China and the United States.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/28/2022

## Gee Family Spring Dinner



them a good education and later they became very successful in many fields.

There were many politicians and business people from the mainstream society who attended the banquet that night, including

university professors, judges, a congresswoman, city councilman and diplomats. Everyone tasted delicious Chinese food and gave red envelopes to the lion dancers.

Recently, the Texas Senate has been considering a bill to ban Chinese from buying Texas land. This is simply ridiculous. Tonight of the people who attended the party, most of them are citizens, but they never forget their roots and being Chinese Americans

On Sunday night, my wife and I (her last name is Gee) participated in the Gee's family dinner. Nearly 400 family members and guests gathered together. The lion dance and the sound of gongs and drums kicked off the atmosphere of food and joy. The cultural background that still existed in American society was also aroused with infinite signs of joy in their hearts.

Nearly one hundred years ago, the Gee family was the first group that moved to San Antonio, Texas. Their parents gave



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## Southern DAILY

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## Editor's Choice



Britain's Prince William takes part in a spin class during a visit to Aberavon Leisure and Fitness Centre in Port Talbot to meet local communities and hear about how sport and exercise can support mental health and wellbeing, Britain. Jacob King/Pool



A woman dances in celebration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu's victory in an election, that has been disputed by opposition parties, in Lagos, Nigeria. REUTERS/James Oatway



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram



An aerial view shows Israelis blocking the road during a demonstration as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalist coalition government presses on with its contentious judicial overhaul, in Tel Aviv, Israel. REUTERS/Ilan Rosenberg



Charlize Theron poses during a photocall before Dior Fall-Winter 2023/2024 Women's ready-to-wear collection show during Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



A woman holds up an electric device, during the GSMA's 2023 Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain. REUTERS/Nacho Doce



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

More Than 70 Organizations Have Signed, Calling To Fund Refugee Efforts In Ukraine And Globally

“Stand Up For Ukraine” - An Open Letter Calls On World Leaders To Take Urgent Action for Refugees

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Since Russia began its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, more than 10 million people in the country have been forcibly displaced — leading to the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. More than 4 million refugees have fled into the surrounding region, while millions more are displaced throughout Ukraine itself. As bombs continue to fall on cities and neighborhoods, more and more civilians are forced to flee their homes, adding to a crisis affecting an estimated 100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Vital humanitarian organizations are struggling to provide much-needed aid and relief due to lack of funds and support.

As part of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign, Global Citizen and 77 organizations, businesses, and institutions published an open letter to world leaders on Friday, calling for governments, philanthropists, artists, and businesses to support humanitarian relief efforts for refugees from Ukraine and conflicts around the world.



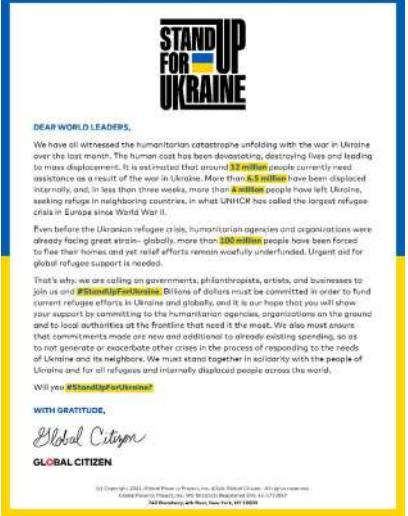
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has reported a \$10 billion funding gap of to address the global refugee crisis. Displacement caused by war, persecution, climate change, and human rights violations require immediate attention, but without the necessary funding, emergency aid organizations are unable to deliver the food, health care, and protection that is so urgently needed.

“That’s why we are calling on governments, philanthropists, artists, and businesses to join us and #StandUpForUkraine,” the letter states. “Billions of dollars must be committed in order to fund current

refugee efforts in Ukraine and globally, and it is our hope that you will show your support by committing to the humanitarian agencies, organizations on the ground and to local authorities at the frontline that need it the most.”

**What does the open letter hope to achieve?** More than 6.5 million people are displaced within Ukraine, while more than 4 million refugees have fled across borders, according to data from the UN-HCR. An estimated 12 million people are currently in need of assistance as a result of the conflict. The open letter and Stand Up for Ukraine campaign aim to mobilize billions of dollars for refugee relief and ensure the most vulnerable — such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities — are not overlooked or left behind. The letter not only addresses Ukraine’s refugee crisis, but it also urges the international community not to shirk its responsibilities for refugees worldwide. “We also must ensure that commitments made are new and additional to already existing spending, so as to not generate or exacerbate other crises in the process of responding to the needs of Ukraine and its neighbors,” the letter says. “We must stand together in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and for all refugees and internally displaced people across the world.”

You can read the full letter here below.



**Who has signed the letter so far?** Aable, aable Lending Services AG, Accelerate Global, LLC, Action for Sustainable Development,

American Security Project, Arctic Basecamp, Association « Russie-Libertés », Athena Impact, Australians for Mental Health, Balaklava Blues, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, Ben-evity, Blind Media Inc., Charlie Dent, CIVICUS, Co-founder AfterWEVote, DevryBV Sustainable Strategies, Direct Relief, Donor Tracker, Douglas Alexander, Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, e2=equitable energy, EcoVision, Elijah Interfaith Institute, European Food Banks Federation, Focus 2030, Folk Songs of Ukraine, Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia, Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,



Global Campaign for Education-US, Global Citizens Youth Advocate, Global Solidarity Fund, Globesight, Green Element Group, Hadley Impact Consulting, Heartland Initiative, Inc., I Support Ukraine, International Chamber of Commerce, International Medical Corps, International STEM Council, IsraAID, Jara, KD Leadership Strategies, KM Strategies Group, Kulturehaus, Let’s Help, Lot 20 Coffee, Minderoo Foundation, Namati, Natural Resources Defense Council, Netzwerk Music Group, Nigeria Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development, One Global Democracy, ONU FEMMES FRANCE, Oshun Partnership, Pallottine Missionary Foundation, Salvatti.pl, PhilanthropyWorks, Public Movement Faith, Hope, Love, Ramesh Ferris Global Health, Advocate & Canadian Polio Survivor, Razom for Ukraine, Refugee Talent, Rotary International, SDG Advising LLC, Shule Foundation, Inc., Social Projects Center of Future, Stand With Ukraine, The Africa 80 Foundation, The Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism, THE GLOBAL KID: The World’s 1st VR/AR Political Comic Book, The Marigold Foundation - Malta, The National Alliance for Rare Diseases Support- Malta, The ONE Campaign, Tonya McCusker AM, Tribeca Enterprise, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Ukrainian Red Cross Society, Zywiec Development Foundation, and FemPozomovi.

What is Stand Up For Ukraine?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy began the call to Stand Up For Ukraine on March 26 in a video address, which implored politicians, business leaders, actors, musicians, and more to show their support for Ukraine. In response, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in partnership with Global Citizen, announced a pledging event on Saturday, April 9, in Warsaw, Poland. The event will be an opportunity for world leaders, philanthropists, and corporations to close the funding gap and bring aid to refugees around the world.

“A Ukrainian child has become a refugee every second since the start of the war. The world must stand up for them. The European Union is catering for the needs of the millions of refugees it hosts.

And we will further step up,” von der Leyen said in a statement. “But so much is needed — and the brave people of Ukraine deserve solidarity from citizens and governments around the globe. Together, we can give them a safe home and bring some light in their lives at this dark hour.”



Ahead of the pledging event, a global social media rally is taking place on Friday, April 8, amplifying the voices of advocates and further calling on world leaders to pledge financial support on Saturday. Musicians, artists, actors, and activists are taking to Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to show their support with the hashtag #StandUpForUkraine.

Learn more about the social media rally and pledging event, and how you can get involved, by visiting [ForUkraine.com](https://www.globalcitizen.org).

Related World Leaders Responded To The Calls Of Advocates To Support Refugees In Ukraine And Around The World. Inspiring Quotes From World Leaders Show Their Support For ‘Stand Up for Ukraine’



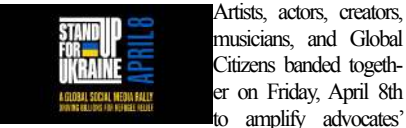
**Leaders, advocates, and more met at the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging summit in Warsaw, Poland on Saturday, April 9 which saw \$10.1 billion pledged in new grants and loans to support refugees from Ukraine and around the world. (Photo: Getty Images)**

It started with a call to action, grew into a movement, and now world leaders are making new commitments and reaffirming pledges to deliver humanitarian aid to support refugees and displaced people from Ukraine and all around the world.

More than 40 world leaders from Germany to Qatar and Switzerland to Slovakia made and renewed their commitments to Ukraine and all global refugees on Saturday, April 9, as part of a pledging event in Warsaw, Poland for the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign. The campaign, inspired by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s call to action, and launched by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in partnership with Global Citizen, brought together organizations, businesses, artists, actors, advocates, and Global Citizens, to call on world leaders to pledge humanitarian aid to refugees from Ukraine and around the world — to help fill the UN Refugee Agency’s \$10 billion funding gap.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, thousands of lives have been taken while more than 10 million people have been forced to leave their

homes and families behind. With an estimated 13 million people in Ukraine in need of urgent assistance and at least 82 million refugees worldwide in need of aid, humanitarian efforts are struggling to reach all those who need help.



Artists, actors, creators, musicians, and Global Citizens banded together on Friday, April 8 to amplify advocates’ voices on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok in a social media rally piling pressure on world leaders ahead of Saturday’s pledging event. With the call to action ignited across the world, Stand Up for Ukraine saw \$10.1 billion (9.1 billion euros) pledged in new grants and loans to support those who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine and around the world.

Although the participation of so many around the world showed the powerful strength of unity and collective action, and what we can achieve when we raise our voices together, there’s still more that world leaders can do to continue their support for people facing forced displacement, whether due to conflict, climate change, human rights violations, and more.

Before Russian aggression exacerbated the global refugee crisis, people from Afghanistan, Yemen, South Sudan, and many more regions were already being forced to flee their homes and these displaced people deserve global support too. Take action in support of all refugees globally here, and take this action today to urge world leaders to act now to prevent a global food crisis being triggered by the conflict in Ukraine.

Musicians, actors, athletes, entertainers, and advocates have showed a powerful display of unity as part of a global social media rally joining forces under the call to Stand Up For Ukraine and for all the world’s refugees and displaced people. From heartfelt tweets to impassioned video messages, they’ve helped amplify the calls of advocates urging world leaders, businesses, governments, and institutions to mobilize funding for refugees from Ukraine and around the world.



The social media rally was held before the Stand Up For Ukraine pledging event on Saturday in Warsaw, Poland, hosted by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in partnership with Global Citizen. The event aims to secure billions of dollars in funding to relieve the urgent refugee crisis worldwide.

Zelenskyy first implored the international community to Stand Up For Ukraine in a March 26 video message call to action. “I’m inviting everybody: musicians, actors, athletes, businessmen, politicians, everybody,” said Zelenskyy in his address. “Everyone who wants to join this movement and Stand Up For Ukraine.”

(Article Continues Below)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

(Article Continues From Above)

Stand Up For Ukraine: An Open Letter Calls On World Leaders To Take Urgent Action for Refugees

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Inspiring Quotes From World Leaders Show Their Support For ‘Stand Up For Ukraine’

Here below are quotes and pledges from some of the dozens of world leaders that answered the call to action to Stand Up for Ukraine and for all refugees globally.



**1.Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia** “We might be separated by half an earth but Australia stands with Ukraine,” said Morrison. Morrison announced no new pledges but reiterated Australia’s commitment to support Ukrainian efforts. He also mentioned that along with prioritizing Ukrainian visa applications, Australia has provided \$65 million toward refugee relief efforts and is working with the UN and UK to provide additional humanitarian assistance. **2.Alexander Schallenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria** “In these dark hours, Austria stands with Ukraine. The Ukrainian people desperately need and what they deserve is peace,” Schallenberg said. “So my message to President Putin is simple: Silence the gun, pull back your troops, and end this war.” **3. Mustafa Al-sayed, Secretary General of The Royal Humanitarian Foundation, Kingdom of Bahrain** “We wish the people of Ukraine a safe and quick end to their suffering, and we support all the initiatives taken to provide support and bring peace and stability to this important part of the world.” Alsayed said. **4. Alexander de Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium** “We’re all brokenhearted by what is happening. Everyday we’re shocked by the sheer inhumanity,” de Croo said. “Homes and hospitals being destroyed. Families torn apart. Grandparents not knowing if their grandchildren are still alive. From the first hour, the first day, people in Belgium have opened their hearts and their homes for families on the run. At this very moment, Belgian trucks are on the road to Ukraine with medical assistance and food. We’ll continue our efforts as long as needed,” he pledged. “Belgium will not leave anyone behind.” **5. Kalina Konstantinova, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria** “We have full confidence that we are capable and prepared to welcome and take care of more people in need,” said Konstantinova. “Bulgaria is a small country with a big heart. Bulgaria stands for peace. Bulgaria stands with Ukraine. **6.Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia** “Croatia pledges another 100 million euros in assisting Ukrainian refugees that we shall be receiving in our country in these dire times for the Ukrainian people,” Plenković announced. “We will continue our support,

our solidarity, and our help in these moments when we are standing by Ukraine and the Ukrainians.”

**7. Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank**

“The Council of Europe Development Bank stands passionately behind Ukraine and their people,” said Monticelli. “We are proud to be part of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign and join forces with others to stand up against this war and to contribute for peace in Europe.”

On behalf of the Council of Europe Development Bank, Monticelli announced a 1 billion euro loan to member states to support long term needs of refugees and the areas they have evacuated to. **8. Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus** “In addition to our commitments so far, which are exceeding 2 million euros, I would like to announce a fresh and symbolic financial commitment of 100,000 euros to support the humanitarian work undertaken in Ukraine and neighboring countries by the relevant entities of the United Nations agencies.” **9. Petr Fiala, Prime Minister of Czech Republic**

Fiala emphasized the need for more assistance for the 300,000 Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Czech Republic, most of whom are women and children, and announced that 200 million euros would be released in support of those refugees. “We will also continue to help directly in Ukraine,” he said. “You can count on that. The Czech Republic stands behind Ukraine.” **10. Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark** “Our world changed six weeks ago. A brutal aggressor invaded a peaceful and democratic country. We have all seen the horrible pictures from the war. The total lack of humanity. It is heartbreaking,” Frederiksen said. “Denmark stands in full solidarity with Ukraine. We support your fight for freedom and peace. And we open our hearts and homes to Ukrainians fleeing the war.” Frederiksen added that Denmark has donated \$53 million toward support in Ukraine and neighboring countries along with \$22 million to the World Bank’s budget support package for Ukraine. She also stated that her country is “ready to do more.”



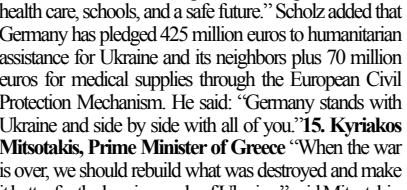
**11. Odile Renaud-Basso, President of The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** “The invasion and war is a tragedy for the country and its people, and we are determined that we should stand up for Ukraine alongside our many friends and partners,” said Renaud-Basso. “Millions of people have been displaced either within Ukraine or forced to live as refugees, and alleviating the impact on them is one of our main priorities.” Renaud-Basso and the EBRD announced a pledge of 1 billion euros to support Ukrainian refugees as part of a larger resilience package that will also benefit surrounding countries taking in refugees. The plan also includes investments in municipal infrastructures such as funding companies so that refugees can find work. “I congratulate you on organizing this initiative, and I’m sure that together we can make a difference,” Renaud-Basso told Global Citizen.

**12. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank** Hoyer announced that the European Investment bank plans to mobilize 4 billion euros toward investments and refugee assistance by the end of 2023. “As millions of Ukrainians flee their homes seeking safety, we cannot be paralyzed by horror,” he said. “We must live up to the exemplary bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people. We have to support them and those who are hosting them in Poland and elsewhere.”



**13. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland** “Finland is ready to assume its responsibility in this common effort. There is no time to waste,” Marin said, describing the concerted efforts of Finland and the EU. “Our entire society is with the Ukrainian people,” she said. “We [will] do our best to help Ukraine and those fleeing from the atrocities of the war.” **14. Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany** “Only a few hundred meters from here, at Berlin Central Station, trains with Ukrainian refugees are pulling in by the hour. I met with some refugees a few days ago. Their stories are heart wrenching,” Scholz said. “I told them that they are welcome here and that in a joint effort, the federal government, our lender, and our local communities are doing all we can to provide shelter, health care, schools, and a safe future.” Scholz added that Germany has pledged 425 million euros to humanitarian assistance for Ukraine and its neighbors plus 70 million euros for medical supplies through the European Civil Protection Mechanism. He said: “Germany stands with Ukraine and side by side with all of you.” **15. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece** “When the war is over, we should rebuild what was destroyed and make it better for the heroic people of Ukraine,” said Mitsotakis. “That is why Greece commits to rebuild Mariupol Maternity Hospital as we stand up for Ukraine and lift our sights for the future. What better way to do so than by securing the best conditions for welcoming new life?” **16. Ignacio Galán, Chairman and CEO of Iberdrola** “I can announce today a further donation of 1 million euros to international organizations. Iberdrola is and will remain committed to help,” Galán said, adding that Iberdrola and its employees have also provided electrical equipment and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine.

**17. Micheál Martin Irish Taoiseach** “We pledge from within our national resources and in line with the Temporary Protection Directive to provide our state support to them, including social welfare, accommodation and housing support, education, and health care, as we have said to the many thousands of Ukrainians who have fled to Ireland,” said Ireland’s Taoiseach Micheál Martin. “Our home is your home.”



Martin announced a commitment of over 50 million euros for humanitarian aid and pledged ongoing support including 20 million euros to support people in Ukraine and in neighboring countries. **18. Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy** “Italians have thrown open the doors of their homes and of their schools. We will not look the other way,” said Draghi, alluding to new governmental funding for Ukraine that would come in addition to the 500 million euros that has gone toward assisting refugees in Italy and 110 million euros for the Ukrainian government. **19. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland** “Iceland stands in full solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia’s brutal military aggression,” Jakobsdóttir said. Jakobsdóttir also added that Iceland has welcomed 600 Ukrainian refugees, contributed roughly half a billion Icelandic króna (US\$3.8 million) to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, and has allocated funds to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN

Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Icelandic Red Cross, and the World Bank’s Reconstruction Fund. “I thank the organizers of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign,” she said. “Iceland is ready to do more and the people of Iceland stand with the people of Ukraine.” **20. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan** “Japan stands with the people of Ukraine who are facing a national crisis,” said Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. He announced that Japan will provide a total of \$300 million — including \$200 million in emergency humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs, for example of health and medical care, food assistance, and protection of displaced people, and \$100 million in loans to support Ukraine’s economy. “Japan will continue to implement assistance in solidarity with the Ukrainian people,” he continued. “Stand up for Ukraine!”

For additional statements of support, please go to the following link: <https://www.globalcitizen.org>.

Related

**“We Can Give Them A Safe Home And Bring Some Light Into Their Lives At This Dark Hour” “Stand Up For Ukraine” Campaign Aims To Drive Billions In Aid For Refugees Worldwide**



As the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine continues to grow in urgency, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the success of the “Stand Up for Ukraine” pledging event, that took place on Saturday, April 9, in Warsaw, Poland. The event aimed to mobilize significant funding to help vulnerable civilians impacted by the conflict and to support refugees everywhere. Ahead of the event, a global social media rally supported by Global Citizen took place on Friday, April 8, in response to a new video from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which he called on the international community to help the people affected by the invasion. The rally encouraged citizens to call on governments, institutions, corporations, and individuals to donate to humanitarian efforts for Ukraine and refugees from conflicts worldwide, such as Yemen, South Sudan, and Afghanistan.

Together, the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging event and rally seek to raise billions of dollars to bolster the United Nations’ flash funding appeal to assist the more than 3.7 million refugees who have fled Ukraine, the 6.5 million people displaced within the country, and other global humanitarian priorities.

“A Ukrainian child has become a refugee almost every single second since the start of the war,” von der Leyen said in a statement. “The world must stand up for them. The European Union is catering for the needs of the millions of refugees it hosts. And we will further step up. But so much is needed still — and the brave people of Ukraine deserve solidarity from citizens and governments around the globe,” she added. “Together, we can give them a safe home and bring some light in their lives at this dark hour.”



More than 12 million people are currently in need of emergency aid — food, water, shelter, health care, and more — as a result of the war. Russia’s relentless

bombing campaign has killed more than 1,900 civilians and made entire cities unlivable through the destruction of apartment blocks, key infrastructure, and health care facilities.

“Today, our message to the Ukrainian people is this: We are standing with you,” Trudeau said. “Whether you need food, water, shelter, or medical aid — we are rallying the world to continue to have your backs and provide critical assistance where it is needed most. When we all work together, we can achieve the best outcomes for those displaced by Putin’s illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine.”

The consequences will only worsen as the conflict drags on and the Russian army seeks to overwhelm additional parts of Ukraine. In his video message, Zelenskyy further described the impact of the war. “Millions of Ukrainians had their own home, had their own dreams, had their own quiet place, had their own world they could close from others or open it to everyone,” he said. “They had their own home until Russian missiles, bombs, shells came in. Until the invaders have come, and have destroyed and burned down absolutely everything. City after city, village after village, thousands of houses ruined, thousands of destroyed apartments,” he added. “Hundreds of cities and towns are annihilated, some are erased to ashes, burned down completely.”

The UN is leading efforts for a ceasefire, and Zelenskyy has been urging Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the conflict — but little progress has been made so far.

Zelenskyy urged people around the world to support the pledging event and social media rally.



“I ask you to support Ukraine, to support Ukrainians with the ‘Stand Up for Ukraine’ motto,” he said. “I’m inviting everybody: musicians, actors, athletes, businessmen, politicians, everybody. Everyone who wants to join this movement and ‘Stand Up for Ukraine.’” The surge of refugees from Ukraine adds to a larger crisis worldwide. Globally, 82.4 million people are displaced, and there’s a \$10 billion gap in funding for their support. Stand Up for Ukraine aims to mobilize funds to assist with this funding gap to ensure all refugees, everywhere, receive the aid they need.

“History has shown us that conflict and poverty are closely interconnected, resulting in the weakening of the rule of law, a collapse in economic development, and often catastrophic humanitarian situations,” said Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen. “There is no doubt that the conflict in Ukraine has led to a humanitarian crisis — members of



Global Citizen saw this ourselves at the Ukrainian-Polish border. More than 3 million refugees have fled their homes, with millions more likely on their way,” he said. “Global Citizen has a history of responding rapidly to humanitarian crises, and this is no different. We’re calling for an immediate end to this crisis, and the provision of immediate financing to support refugee relief efforts not just in Ukraine but around the world.” For more information about the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging event and social media rally, you can visit [ForUkraine.com](https://www.globalcitizen.org). (Courtesy globalcitizen.org.)