



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: BFU Media Team
press@blackforeignersinukraine.org

March 15, 2022

‘Black Foreigners in Ukraine’ leverages Crypto to Save Black & African Lives, Receives \$25,000 donation from African NFT and Web3 community
The global collective of volunteers teaches refugees and students to use Crypto to provide life-saving funds as they face discrimination while trying to escape war

[Black Foreigners in Ukraine \(BFU\)](#) – a global collective of volunteers providing aid, transportation, and transit navigation to Black and African foreigners in Ukraine – uses crypto, a digital currency, to provide financial support to Black and African foreigners in Ukraine. When ATM cash became scarce in Ukraine, BFU began receiving and disbursing crypto funds to support students and refugees in accessing food, clothing, transport and accommodations.

The African NFT and Web3 community supported the efforts of [BFU](#) and [Black Women for Black Lives](#), by making a donation of \$25,000 worth of ETH to each organisation. These funds help the organisations continue to provide aid to Black and African foreigners who are caught in the crossfires of the war.

“When we started raising awareness about the plight of Black Foreigners fleeing the war in Ukraine, we did not know that we would get to the point of assisting war refugees with funds through crypto currency,” said Glory Attaochu, a member of BFU – who is known by her voice and for leading Twitter Spaces that share the atrocities of students’ experiences on the ground in Ukraine and their testimonies once they reach safety outside of Ukraine. “It first started off as good hearted people wanting to help and donate funds for black students in Ukraine through crypto currency, then it turned to asking the students fleeing the war, what’s the best way to send you funds, cash in hand?”

For BFU to request cash donations to help provide aid, the use of PayPal and CashApp would require personal account attachments and donation transfers could be delayed despite the urgent need for the funds. Crypto provided a special opportunity for donations that would be of immediate use to students and refugees despite the empty ATMs in Ukraine.

“When the students started telling us that crypto currency would be the quickest way to get them funds, it was a no brainer. ‘Why don’t we raise funds through crypto?’ It is amazing to see what we can achieve through technology even in the time of war,” continued Attaochu.

“The first crypto donation we received at Black Foreigners in Ukraine was 1eth. That one eth was able to get six students a bus from Ternopil to Budapest, to feed a group of about 30

students and to house a few students who crossed into Poland from Ukraine. Since then, we have relied on crypto to be one of the quickest ways to disburse funds to students all over Europe who are fleeing or have fled the Ukraine war.”

The BFU collective began instructing refugees on how to download a [Meta Mask](#) wallet to be able to transfer funds and aid using solely crypto. The team went on to create a [crypto wallet guide](#) with instructions on how to set up the wallet to transfer and receive funds from BFU.

After widespread reports of racism and xenophobic discrimination at various transport stations and border points in Ukraine, civilians around the world mobilized and have coordinated efforts to get foreigners safely out of Ukraine – with a focus on Black and African students. With this quick mobilization – it became difficult to obtain large-scale donations to support the work given the lack of tax and/or IRS-registered companies and organisations being in place.

In response, organisations like BFU, turned to cryptocurrencies as a solution. African organisations in Web3 came together to raise funds for Africans and Black foreigners in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries to provide people with the necessary resources to shelter and get the assistance they need. Web3 for #africansinukraine includes: the African NFT Community, Cyberbaat, COLDS Collective, Ghana NFT club, Nigeria NFT Community, Kenya NFT club and the Botho NFT Community.

The Web3 #AfricansinUkraine fundraiser is ongoing through March 16th. All wallet activity can be seen on [etherscan](#) and [solscan](#) by copying the wallet address into the search field. Donations can be found on [mirror.xyz](#). Direct donations can also be made in SOL and ETH through the following addresses:

- **africansinukraine.sol:** (DM1Ge1THPGVVcZSpAaxLszj6zdB6D9tBhBGkosQ1o7Mz)
- **africansinukraine.eth:** (0x8e789E9f8895ef0B0d3d1eBd0a8478ECf8Cdcf80)

In this time of war, some taxis and other transport options started accepting payments in crypto given the lack of cash available to everyone. As a result, the BFU finance and fundraising team works to secure funds – largely in crypto – to disburse to students and foreigners fleeing Ukraine who are in need of housing, Airbnb or hotel accommodations, food, water, clothing and other necessary supplies for survival. BFU has received, and disbursed, more than \$15,000 in aid to people stuck and trying to escape Ukraine. For funds transparency, please see a recent [post breaking down funds raised and disbursed](#) on social media. BFU’s public [Etherscan wallet](#) also allows individuals to look up crypto wallet transactions. The BFU collective features its [procedures for disbursing funds](#) to students and refugees in need on its [website](#).

Black Foreigners in Ukraine also works to provide transparency of how donations are used, as promised, to support Black, African and other foreigners in need. Please visit the BFU website to see how you can support this work at [blackforeignersinukraine.org](#).

###