

United support for Ukraine

With alarming developments in the Ukraine at the forefront of news agencies around the globe it is understandable that the very worrying and delicate situation will bring a wide range of concerns.

As a global entity we have closely monitored developments, with the well-being of our people at the forefront.

Luckily, we have received help and suggestions on how to support and provide assistance to anyone potentially affected, from all countries we are based in and beyond.

We also have an open communication channel with local embassies that are able to provide reliable support in what is a very fast paced environment, and can be contacted by employees in order to find more specific and country based information if needed.

In addition to human concerns, our Security Operations Centre (SOC) team has heightened it's alert to mitigate the associated risks.

We should point out that cyber attacks in use at the moment mostly prey on critical infrastructure such as the energy sector, and for the most part target Ukraine, however, our SOC team are on constant alert to make sure that nothing adversely impacts our perimeter.

Whilst assured that our current mitigation controls, operational maturity, and threat detection capabilities provide sufficient protection to fight off any additional risk, operationally, this is a great time to reinforce good user security awareness which remains the most probable source of compromise.

Always use MFA, scrutinize every email for anything suspicious, refrain from clicking links or downloading/ opening attachments.

In addition to this, we wanted to continue supporting in the best way possible and give our GiGsters some ideas on how they can focus their energy and support for people and organisations, who are helping directly at the borders of Ukraine.

With 360k+ refugees already over the border and a further estimated 4 million to come over in the next days and weeks, it is important we focus any efforts and resources to the right places, and we each will have our own ways and ideas of how best to support.

We have set up a Gofundme page called #TogetherWithUkraine, to use for social media fundraising and to keep track of GiGsters donations so GiG Gives can double them, this account is going through due diligence and will be ready in a day or two.

Also, one of our own GiGsters who lives in Poland has asked for support. He has gone with his family to the border to see how they can help. They have committed to rehoming a family with a pregnant mum and two young children, who arrive shortly. And together with a chain of friends and local people from their community, have pooled all resources including clothes, food, water, supplies and extending rooms in their own homes – stretching already tight finances, to help as many refugees as they can. Under normal circumstances donations of clothes and other supplies like hygiene products etc would be called for, however more immediate support is needed currently, albeit parcels of supplies are still more than welcome.

We are also committing to:

- Further aid for refugees including GiG Gives doubling any donations you make to NGOs (please advise Elizabeth of your donations)
- Organising collections in our locations to be sent to camps or local charities
- Support GiGsters who help refugees directly with shelter, food, clothes and supplies, with fundraising, paid leave and well-being support including emotional and mental therapies
- Use your GiG Gives paid volunteer day to support
- Support refugees when they arrive in different locations, through collections, volunteering and well-being support – we will formulate a plan once further details are released by the governments involved

The well-being of our people and their people is paramount, and we will continue to support where and however best we can. We will be posting a public statement reflecting the base of this on LinkedIn now, and we are not trying to draw attention to our collective actions for praise – but to encourage other companies to play their part and gain momentum to end this war as soon as possible.