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*Amsterdam, February 28th 2022* - Three successful Dutch tech entrepreneurs have joined forces to aid those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Ali Niknam (bunq), Joris Beckers (Picnic) and Robert Vis (MessageBird) have set up a foundation to shelter refugees fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The People for People foundation was founded today, after bunq received an enormous amount of messages in response to a [LinkedIn message](#) that Niknam posted earlier this weekend.

The charitable initiative will help refugees from both Ukraine and Russia and is currently looking into the effectiveness of various support actions it can implement. The foundation is already equipped to temporarily accommodate refugees in hotels and apartments in Bulgaria and Georgia where and when needed. Additionally, People for People is looking into getting them into the Netherlands on a work visa. Large numbers of Dutch people also reached out to the foundation, offering to provide shelter to affected families.

“We received countless responses over the weekend; it's truly heartwarming to see how the most dire situations bring out the best in people. As a result, this initiative has quickly grown far bigger than we anticipated. To maximise its positive impact we joined forces with other Dutch entrepreneurs to establish People for People”, says Niknam.

Former CFO of TransIP Pieter Jan van Krevel will develop and oversee the foundation from his role as director. All those affected or anyone who can provide shelter or wants to support the foundation can contact the organisation through the official [website](#). The previous email address used for the initiative ([people@bunq.com](mailto:people@bunq.com)) will automatically be redirected.

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## ABOUT PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE

With the war in Ukraine ongoing, a team of Dutch entrepreneurs took initiative to connect people who can provide help to those who need it – Ukrainians and Russians alike.

What started as a message on [LinkedIn](#) by one of our founders, has quickly grown far bigger than we expected.

To maximise the positive impact of our initiative, foundation 'Stichting People for People' was founded by Joris Beckers (Picnic), Robert Vis (Messagebird) and Ali Niknam (bunq). Pieter Jan Krevel has started to give shape to the important tasks ahead.

We are very grateful to all of them for joining in and helping to make a difference for the better, together.

We will focus our efforts on getting people to a place where they can live in peace. This is a big and complex operation, so all help is welcome. That's why we ask people who are able and willing to offer their help, in any shape or form, to contact us.

Meanwhile the EU announced last night that all Ukrainians will get a 3 year visa that will allow them to reside and work in the EU. We welcome this fantastic news and hope that in the near future this important change will also be applicable to others victims of this war, regardless of their nationality.



People for People