

# **Ukraine's official statements on evacuation of Indian and African nationals due to Russian invasion**

**Citizens of all countries are given maximum possible support by Ukrainian authorities. Helplines have been set up.**

**Among dozens of civilians killed in the Russian bombardments of Kharkiv was one Indian student. Most international students have safely crossed the border.**

## **Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement Wednesday 2 March, 18.38**

*Due to a number of government websites being inaccessible because of Russia's cyber attacks, the statement was published on MFA's Facebook page.*

<https://www.facebook.com/UkraineMFA/posts/329661922537613>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its hostilities in Kharkiv and Sumy so that we can arrange the evacuation of the civilian population, including foreign students, to safer Ukrainian cities.

There are students from India, Pakistan, China and other countries who cannot leave because of the indiscriminate shelling and barbaric missile strikes by the Russian Armed Forces on residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

The Government of Ukraine stands ready to assist foreign students to relocate from Kharkiv and Sumy should Russia commit to a ceasefire. Attempting to arrange evacuations through cities that are being subjected to Russian bombing and missile strikes is extremely dangerous.

We urgently call on the governments of India, Pakistan, China and other countries whose students have become hostages of the Russian armed aggression in Kharkiv and Sumy, to demand from Moscow that it allows the opening of a humanitarian corridor to other Ukrainian cities.

The Ukrainian government is committed to providing foreign students with all necessary assistance to enable them to return safely to their home countries.

## **Ministry of Foreign Affairs announcement of a hotline for foreign students Wednesday 2 March, 12.25**

<https://www.facebook.com/100064814226458/posts/329444642559341/?d=n>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has established an emergency hotline for foreign students wishing to leave Ukraine because of the Russian armed aggression.

Those who require assistance can call, Viber or Telegram the following number:

+380 93418 56 84

+380679070725

+380987625180




For Chinese citizens:  
为中国公民的联系方式:


电话: +380 (99) 247 90 83  
邮箱: evacuation.mfa@gmail.com

 For Indian citizens:

+380 (93) 077 83 77

 For citizens of Iran and Pakistan:

+380 (93) 075 25 51

 The questionnaire has also been created for collecting basic information about students and their whereabouts in order to advise them on the means available for their departure: <https://cutt.ly/qAi9vBJ>.

The Government of Ukraine is in close constant contact with diplomatic missions and consulates of foreign countries to ensure that their citizens are safe and able to return to their countries as soon as possible.

The Ukrainian border guards in cooperation with colleagues from neighboring EU countries and Moldova are doing everything possible to speed up the passage of all citizens from Ukraine and have never created obstacles that would hinder this.

The Ministry wishes to advise that all checkpoints on the western border are open 24 hours a day. Checks and check-in operations have been simplified as much as possible and the list of necessary documents has been minimized.

In Ukraine, there is no discrimination based on race, skin color or nationality, including when it comes to the crossing of the state border by foreign citizens.

The first come first served approach applies to all nationalities.

In accordance with international humanitarian law, priority is given to women and children.

All men, both Ukrainian nationals and foreign citizens, pass checks and check-in operations after women, children and elderly people.

All people at the border are asked to comply with law and order and to act responsibly in light of the challenging situation. This will allow the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to speed up the border crossing process. Those who are crossing are asked to have documents ready and to be as organized as possible.

In addition, we ask that those crossing show mutual respect and understanding to everyone at the border during this extremely difficult time. Border guard personnel are working around the clock on both sides, in difficult conditions, to make the crossing as fast and as straight-forward as possible.

We would like to reiterate that the ongoing severe humanitarian situation in Ukraine, including the situation at the western border of Ukraine, was caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Russia bears full responsibility for the killing and injuring of innocent people, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and creating obstacles for the safe departure of foreign citizens.

Ukraine calls on all foreign governments to demand from President Putin that he immediately stops his war in Ukraine. This will allow us to stabilize the situation and focus more on the safety and security of the population, including foreign students.

**Tweet by Dmytro Kuleba on the new hotline for African, Asian and other students, with embedded video showing  
Wednesday 2 March, 6.49 pm**

<https://twitter.com/dmytrokuleba/status/1499094640552775682?s=21>

We have established an emergency hotline for African, Asian and other students wishing to leave Ukraine because of Russia's invasion. +380934185684 We are working intensively to ensure their safety & speed up their passage. Russia must stop its aggression which affects us all.

**A video statement from an Algerian student on MFA Facebook page**

Wednesday 2 March, 12.07

The unnamed student says: "Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you! This is a message for all the families of expatriates and residents inside Ukraine and students, I mean all residents who were present in Ukraine. All students and all residents and non-students are fine, whether inside Ukraine or outside Ukraine. All are unhurt. Do not believe the false news on social networking sites. Thank you very much! Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you!"

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement following death of Indian student from Russian army shelling**

Tuesday 1 March, 14.49

<https://www.facebook.com/100064814226458/posts/328869135950225/?d=n>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the barbaric missile attacks and indiscriminate shelling by the Russian Federation of residential areas and civilian infrastructure across Ukrainian cities.

We express our sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones because of the devastating war President Putin has unleashed against the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine deeply regrets that a student from India has become a victim of the shelling by the Russian armed forces in Kharkiv. The Ministry offers its deepest sympathies to the Government of India and the relatives of the deceased. We stand ready to provide the Indian Embassy with the required assistance in order to repatriate the body of an Indian citizen.

The Chinese citizen was also injured in another Ukrainian city because of Russia's deadly attacks.

The Ukrainian and foreign citizens have become hostages of the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine.

We call on all foreign governments to demand from President Putin that he immediately stops his war in Ukraine. This will allow us to stabilize the situation and focus more on the safety and security of the population, including foreign students.

The Ministry wishes to reiterate that there is no discrimination based on the race or nationality, including when it comes to the crossing of the state border by

foreign citizens. Given the extreme security conditions, the first come first served approach applies to all nationalities, with certain humanitarian exceptions allowed for women and children.

We are working closely with the relevant agencies of Ukraine to step up support to foreign citizens, including students, wishing to return to their home countries or move to third countries due to the Russian military invasion.

**Tweet by Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Tuesday 1 March, 10.46 pm**

<https://twitter.com/dmytrokuleba/status/1498791864916496389?s=21>

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has affected Ukrainians and non-citizens in many devastating ways. Africans seeking evacuation are our friends and need to have equal opportunities to return to their home countries safely. Ukraine’s government spares no effort to solve the problem.”