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[17:00:42]

AL SHARPTON, MSNBC HOST: Good evening and welcome to POLITICSNATION.

Tonight's breaking news lead: State of emergency.

Just minutes ago, President Zelensky addressed Ukrainians via his Telegram channel, calling on them to never surrender and go on the offensive.

Meanwhile, our government is pleading with Americans still in Russia to get out immediate.

Ukraine's President is asking our leaders for more help, and the world continues trying to reason with Vladimir Putin as the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its third week. Fighting continues in and around its major cities, some of which have been already taken by Russian forces, the human costs growing by the day.

This morning, Israel's Prime Minister met with Putin over security concerns for its citizens caught up in the conflict and as fighting continues, here in the U.S., our State Department warn Americans still in Russia to leave while they still can, and more than 300 of our Federal lawmakers met by video with Ukraine's President Zelensky this morning as Congress negotiates the President's request for \$10 billion in aid of every kind for Ukraine.

Another intense week for the world. We begin, of course, tonight in Ukraine.

Let's now go to NBC's Cal Perry, out of Lviv, Ukraine.

Cal, thousands of refugees arriving from other cities to Lviv, by evacuation trains and buses, what is the latest dispatch from where you're seen on the ground there.

CAL PERRY, NBC NEWS, CORRESPONDENT: What, we are seeing here, Rev, in the western part of the country is the war has arrived. It has arrived in the form of these refugees who are scared and confused and they don't know where to go and they're fleeing now some of the worst fighting we've seen just in the week that this war started.

The eastern part of the country is seeing a dozen or so villages, towns, and including some cities that are just being heavily bombarded by Russian troops. There was talk earlier today of some humanitarian corridors in and around the city of Mariupol, which is on the Black Sea, but the ceasefire didn't hold, it didn't hold even for a few hours, Ukrainian officials saying that bombardment didn't stop.

And we're talking about cities here that have had the power cut, the water cut, that doesn't have heat, and a population here, as you've laid out, you know, 1.2 million refugees already have left Ukraine. That does not account for the internally displaced people.

It does not account for the World Food Programme saying that at least five million Ukrainians are now food dependent, i.e. there is going to be a hunger issue here on the ground as this war only spreads -- Rev.

SHARPTON: Now, Cal, do you get the sense that the diplomatic efforts we are reporting on are having any impact on the fighting?

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PERRY: No, it actually seems to be the reverse.

We've had two rounds of talks along the border with Belarus and Russia, with Ukrainian officials, and nothing came of them. They talked about the framework for a ceasefire, the ceasefire fell through.

On the other side of the diplomatic spectrum, you know, you have these appeals from the Ukrainian President for NATO to do something, but NATO has been clear, they're not going to put a no-fly zone in over this country because they are worried that could result in World War Three.

So Ukrainians are caught in the middle. They don't trust the Russians when it comes to these peace talks. We may see another round, a third round of talks on Monday.

But again, we heard even from the Ukrainian delegation that the route to the peace talks was being bombed when the peace talks were happening. So, if you can't even drive down the road to get to the talks, it makes you wonder why the talks are happening.

SHARPTON: Wow. Thank you, NBC's Cal Perry in Ukraine.

Joining me now Senator Gary Peters, Democrat of Michigan. He is a member of two important committees, Chairman of Homeland Security and member of Armed Services.

[17:05:10]

SHARPTON: Senator, earlier this morning, you joined a bipartisan, bicameral Zoom meeting with more than 300 lawmakers and staff with President Zelensky of Ukraine, and we understand he told you and your colleagues that he would stay in Ukraine and fight.

We also understand the most pressing ask that he made during the nearly one hour call was to impose a no-fly zone in Ukraine. Tell us your sense of that meeting, Senator.

SEN. GARY PETERS (D-MI): Well, absolutely, Reverend Sharpton.

And you're right, we had a call with President Zelensky. He is an incredibly courageous individual, an inspiration. Certainly all of the Ukrainian people are an inspiration as they all stand together for freedom and fight back against this horrible illegal aggression by Mr. Putin, and we are all watching it real time on television.

So, President Zelensky was appreciative of the military support that has been provided by the United States and NATO to this point, but he did ask for us to go beyond that to a no-fly zone, or if not a no-fly zone, to provide aircraft that could be used.

He mentioned some of the older aircraft that is in some of our NATO allies, aircraft that his pilots know how to fly, and they would be able to take those aircrafts and use them to defend his country.

So that is certainly a powerful appeal by the President this morning.

SHARPTON: Senator, briefly, two Republican senators on the call today, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Steve Daines of Montana are facing criticism for sharing photos of the Ukrainian President on social media after they were specifically asked not to for security reasons.

Are you worried some of your Republican colleagues are not taking this crisis seriously enough?

PETERS: Well, certainly they have to take it seriously. This is a very, very serious situation, and I hope that we can get beyond any kind of partisan politics and understand this is where the American people have to come together as one.

Traditionally, when we are in a crisis overseas, any kind of partisan shift should end at the water's edge and we need to be united to understand that this is basically a battle for freedom. This is a battle for democracy versus autocracy and a dictatorship which Mr. Putin represents.

This is what happens when you have a dictator. This is what happens when you have a country that doesn't have democratic oversight of their leadership. We need to be united as that beacon, we have to be that beacon of light on the Hill that is shining brightly for democracy and the United States leadership is needed now, more than ever.

SHARPTON: Senator, Russian President Vladimir Putin says he has put his country's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert. And earlier this week, we saw Russian forces shell a major Ukrainian nuclear power plant.

How concerned are you about the threat of nuclear escalation as this conflict wears on?

PETERS: Well, I think it's reasonable to be concerned. Clearly, with that attack on the nuclear power plant, it is completely irresponsible to put that kind of attack on a facility that could create such devastation if destroyed.

It shows that we are dealing, I think, with a leader here that is not acting in a rational basis whatsoever. So it is clearly a concern when it comes to the nuclear threat. One area that I'm particularly focused on and as Chairman of Homeland Security Committee, and that's the cybersecurity threat. I think we also need to be prepared for attacks against the United States and our allies, by Russia, in the cyber domain. That could also be very, very problematic for critical infrastructure.

We have to treat this crisis with incredible seriousness. The stakes are high and when you have a country like Russia with significant both nuclear and cyber capabilities, the threat just goes beyond any one particular border.

SHARPTON: Very serious matters, indeed.

Thank you, Senator Gary Peters.

Now to the humanitarian crisis. Over one million people have fled Ukraine to seek refuge and as they leave Ukraine's borders, they are met with organizers and volunteers of the World Central Kitchen ready to serve them hot meals after enduring brutal conditions as they attempt to escape a war zone.

Joining me now is the CEO of the World Central Kitchen, Nate Mook, in Lviv, Ukraine, and Nate, thank you for joining me today.

[17:10:10]

NATE MOOK, CEO, WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN: Thank you so much for having me, Rev.

SHARPTON: Now, Mr. Mook, you've been posted outside of Lviv, railway station there, preparing hot meals for rivaling refugees. You've been out there during the day, during late nights.

Can you describe to our viewers what you've been seeing firsthand?

MOOK: Yes, you know, Lviv, which is in the western part of Ukraine has become a bit of a humanitarian center for those families leaving the attacks in the east.

So every day more and more families, many women and children are arriving to this train station, it is overwhelming the thousands and thousands of people that are coming off these trains into Lviv.

Many women and children then end up in an area where they can rest. We're providing hot meals there. In some cases, we've been meeting families. This is their first meal they've had in days.

We're also serving meals outside. It is very cold here in Ukraine right now. It is freezing. So we're providing hot soups and other meals for those families and individuals as they're coming off the trains here.

Now from here, they're ending up basically having to figure out what is next. The city of Lviv has set up a center at the stadium here that is run entirely by volunteers to identify accommodation either here in Lviv, although everything is pretty much full here and in the surrounding cities.

You know, as the situation deteriorates, we're going to see more and more people that are streaming this way. Many are trying to get across the border into Poland and other countries. But it really is starting to get desperate and food supplies are starting to run low here.

We're hearing from our suppliers and partner restaurants that are preparing meals that within days, we need to get more supplies in, so we're focused on this right now trying to get trucks and convoys through a humanitarian corridor from Poland to get food here in Lviv to handle this surge in refugees and internally displaced people that are coming from across Ukraine.

SHARPTON: Now, the World Central Kitchen has been stationed around different border crossings around Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and soon, Slovakia. From your own experience, greeting these refugees, where are people hoping to go next?

MOOK: You know, unfortunately, many families don't know what is next. They've had to abandon their lives. They don't know how long they are going to be gone, they don't know if peace is going to come soon or they may never even get to go back home.

There is so much uncertainty right now in this situation. It is heartbreaking. We have teams through eight border crossings in Poland, as you said in Moldova, Romania, Hungary, and beyond and we are meeting these families as they're coming across, trying to provide them a hot meal, to make their life just a little bit better while they are going through this tragic, tragic experience. And the reality is that it's just unknown right now.

We met a young woman, she had a great job in Kyiv. She had a new apartment, she was looking to decorate. Just like so many of us, she's had to leave it, she's had to abandon it. She doesn't know what she's going to do for work. She never knows if she's going to get back to her apartment. And these stories are just one have now over 1.3 million.

So really a lot of unknowns, and what we're trying to do is just trying to make things just a little bit easier for folks as they're going through this really difficult time.

SHARPTON: I know of many organization working together with the World Central Kitchen as you know, during the pandemic. You worked with National Action Network and I, we fed over a million people over months in our partnership in Harlem.

And in fact, one of my producer's father, one of the producers of this show is the largest distributor of Eastern European spirits in the U.S. Mid- Atlantic region and he has announced that all profits from Ukrainian bottles sold in Baltimore bars will be donated to your organization of the World Central Kitchen.

Who else has reached out to help support your organization and what can people who are unable to physically go volunteer, what can they do to help?

MOOK: It's a great question. And as you said, Rev, we did incredible work together during the pandemic.

You know, World Central Kitchen, we rely on such incredible support. We're not funded by the government or anybody else, it is all individuals coming together, businesses donating to make this work possible.

You can find out more, support our work at wck.org. Of course, follow us and our founder, Chef Jose Andres on Twitter. We are posting every day what we're seeing on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

[17:15:11]

MOOK: And you know, we couldn't do this work without our incredible partners on the ground. We have dozens of restaurants across Ukraine serving meals, we have food trucks, and restaurant partners in Poland and other countries.

This really is a joint effort. The food community coming together to support Ukraine. And you know, we're just here to be that conduit to bring everybody together to make this work possible.

So we're so grateful for all the support, and you know, we hope to continue this to make a difference as long as we're needed here.

SHARPTON: Nate Mook, thank you for being with us and stay safe.

Coming up. Congress considers spending billions in aid to Ukraine. My panel joins me next to talk about why this may be the issue that brings Washington together.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[17:20:07]

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ANTONY BLINKEN, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE: We've come from several days of meetings with NATO, the European Union, countries beyond the G-7, and we see that support not only continued security support, humanitarian support, economic support, but that support will increase.

And as to the pressure on Russia, not only is it unprecedented, not only is it producing very, very concrete results in Russia, but that pressure, too, will not only continue, it will grow until this war, this war of choice is brought to an end.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHARPTON: Welcome back to POLITICSNATION. Let's continue our conversation on the Ukraine crisis with my political panel.

Joining me now is Michelle Goldberg, columnist for "The New York Times" and also David Jolly, former Congressman from Florida, both are MSNBC political analysts.

Michelle, let's start with the meeting between Ukrainian President Zelensky and the Senate this morning. This comes as the House is expected to debate a \$10 billion aid package to Ukraine in the coming days.

Meanwhile, many Americans are warming up to the leader since Russia invaded Ukraine. According to the latest economist YouGov poll, 44 percent are in favor and 16 percent view him unfavorably.

How does Zelensky's popularity help Ukraine? Also could continued aid to the Ukraine, one of these rare issues where there's broad bipartisan agreement on the Hill, can it be impacted by this?

MICHELLE GOLDBERG, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Look, I don't think you can overstate the role that Zelensky's personal heroism and sort of every man charisma has had in rallying the world to his side. You know, a week and a half ago, two weeks ago, I think there was a consensus that there would be sanctions on Russia that invaded, but that they wouldn't be crushing, nobody was talking about kicking Russia out of the SWIFT system.

You know, you certainly didn't have major brands pulling out of Russia. And so, I think, you know, what Zelensky has done, if you haven't seen the footage, you know, people out there haven't seen the footage of the crowds last night in Prague, and Georgia, and Germany, out to rally for Zelensky or to rally for Ukraine and you know, a huge monitor with him speaking to the crowd, you know, people have been so hungry for both for heroism and for somebody really standing up for democracy after years when it has seemed, you know, people have been so cynical about it, it's been decayed and embattled.

And to see what Zelensky and the people around him are willing to risk in its defense, I think, has reminded people of what they believe in. And it is tempting to be cynical about some of these Republicans who defended Donald Trump when he blackmailed Zelensky, when he tried to hold up aid Ukraine, but frankly, I'm just glad that most of them are now on the right side, that they're -- that the pro-Putin wing of the Republican Party is being marginalized, and that there really is a political consensus for helping Ukraine.

SHARPTON: David, there might be some agreement between the parties regarding Russia, but inside the Republican Party, there is a rift developing.

Former Vice President indirectly called out his former boss, Donald Trump on Friday at an R.N.C. event when he said there is no room in the G.O.P. for apologists for Putin.

What do you make of Pence's comments now, especially given he said nothing while Trump was cozying up to Putin during his term? And do you think Republican figures such as Trump or Tucker Carlson who sound sympathetic to Putin are a fringe element or do they have real influence?

DAVID JOLLY, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Yes, I don't know that they are a fringe element, they might be in the minority, but they are voices that set the framing of a narrative for many people across the country, right? Those who follow conservative media listen to Tucker Carlson more than they do Mitch McConnell or Mike Pence. And I think these voices that are giving aid and comfort to Putin are either doing it out of pure ignorance, which truly there is a large swath of ignorance within today's Republican Party, devoid of any grounding in foreign policy or understanding of politics at all -- political policy, or it is malice, or it is just values antithetical to the West, and I think that third is the most dangerous.

So when Mike Pence steps onto the field and says: Look, this is wrong. There should be no aid and comfort to Putin within the G.O.P. or within the country. That voice is welcome. But as you pointed out, it's a little too late.

History will record that Mike Pence protected and enabled and empowered Donald Trump while Donald Trump was committing acts that led to his impeachment including specifically around Ukraine.

So good for Mike Pence, but it does little to change his legacy.

[17:25:14]

SHARPTON: Now, Michelle, switching gears now to the push to ban Russian oil, Democrats in Congress want to do it, but the Biden administration is concerned it may affect energy prices. Inflation has been a major topic leading up to the midterms, and problems for President Biden in the midterms could be a result. What should be done in your judgment?

GOLDBERG: Well, of course, I think that they should do it, even though the U.S. doesn't actually import that much oil from Russia, so whether it's going to make a big impact, I think remains to be seen, it would really depend on whether other countries join the United States.

But I think that, you know, I think Biden should do it. I think that you can be honest with the American people, level with the American people, say that you're going to have to --

I think you can get support for people agreeing to pay a little bit more for gas in exchange for standing up to Vladimir Putin. And actually, you can sort of -- you know, there's a huge amount of concern about inflation, obviously, but I think that if people believe that they are making sacrifices for a higher cause that will be a little bit easier to take.

And the fact that there's bipartisan cover for it also makes it a little bit easier. You know, I don't -- Republicans will still turn around and blame Joe Biden for high gas prices, I think that's a given. But at this point, I think that, you know, the price of energy -- the price at the pump, I think is of a lesser concern than the future of Ukraine.

SHARPTON: David, let's quickly talk about President Biden getting an approval bump after the State of the Union address. He is now of eight points to 47 percent according to a new poll. Is this a case of Americans rallying around the President during this international crisis?

JOLLY: I do think it helps. And what I took note of at the State of the Union is the strongest applause, the greatest response by the American people was when he spoke of unity, which is actually Joe Biden's strength. He was able to lean into his natural political strength in this moment. He has to continue to lean into that into November because Republicans are not going to be a fair opposition party. They will unfairly blame Joe Biden for a lot.

Biden has got to play to his strength. We saw it in the State of the Union and the American people responded.

SHARPTON: Michelle Goldberg and David Jolly, thank you for being with us this evening.

Coming up, the new warning from the State Department to Americans in Russia.

But first take a look at this. At one refugee camp in Romania, emergency personnel managed to throw a surprise birthday party for a little seven- year-old Ukrainian girl.

[VIDEO CLIP PLAYS]

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[17:32:26]

SHARPTON: Welcome back to POLITICSNATION.

Some breaking news now: Two of the world's largest credit card companies have suspended their operations in Russia. Visa and Mastercard just minutes ago announcing they will soon cease all transactions with clients and partners in Russia in the next few days.

This move comes as Russia faces increasing sanctions and economic isolation from the global community after its invasion of Ukraine.

Now to a report from NBC's Ellison Barber who is in Poland at that border crossing where Ukrainian refugees are being met with a hot meal -- Ellison.

Ellison Barber, NBC CORRESPONDENT: Right here, they are offering traditional Polish soup to refugees, people who have fled Ukraine and have made it across the border into Poland.

You look around here and you see what is an incredibly organized site. We have been to six different border crossings, welcome centers in the last week or so. This is run by the Polish government. Government officials are here. The aid at other sites is much more loosely organized.

But here you see police, firemen, members of the Polish Army here helping guide people to where they need to go next. They are bringing people in buses from the border crossing inside. There are 2,000 cots where people can stay, they can get warm, and they can sleep for a minute.

There is food. There is free WiFi, places to charge your phone, and then they are arranging transports to other cities in Poland, or even to other countries like Germany or Czech Republic.

You walk down a little more this way and you see all of the aid that is here for people. The influx of people also here many of them carrying their entire lives in one or two suitcases.

As we've spoken to people here. We met one woman who was in her 60s and she said she did not know where she was going to go next. She was from Kharkiv and she had to leave her home even though she didn't want to. She looked down and said that the three bags she had with her, it was her entire life.

There have been over a million refugees fleeing Poland, many of them women and children. This is one place where people can come before they make their way somewhere else.

Back to you.

SHARPTON: Thank you, NBC's Ellison Barber.

The U.S. State Department is today urging Americans to leave Russia immediately, warning that U.S. citizens who stay may face issues accessing money and potential harassment by Russian security officials.

[17:35:14]

SHARPTON: 1The timing comes as a Russian news agency is reporting WNBA basketball player, Brittney Griner was detained at an airport near Moscow. According to Russian Custom officials cited in the article, marijuana products were found in Griner's luggage, although NBC has not -- has yet to confirm this reporting, Griner's agents report, they are in close contact with her.

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister met with President Putin in Moscow earlier today to discuss the status of Israelis and Jews caught up in the conflict. Here is NBC's Josh Lederman in Brussels, Belgium with the latest.

JOSH LEDERMAN, NBC CORRESPONDENT: An Israeli government official tells me that President Putin's meeting in Moscow with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett lasted for three hours as the Israeli leader steps up as the latest head of state trying to act as an intermediary, offer their services to try to help negotiations move forward between Putin, Ukraine, and the West to de-escalate this situation.

In that meeting, the Israeli Prime Minister also communicating his concerns about Israelis and the Jewish community potentially caught up in this conflict.

Now, the Israeli Prime Minister heads to Germany where he will meet with the German chancellor to brief him on his meeting with Putin. We are also told that the Israeli Prime Minister was able to speak on the phone with President Zelensky of Ukraine after his meeting with Putin. That diplomacy taking place as the State Department today issued an alarming new travel warning telling all American citizens in Russia to get out now.

That is a stepped up warning from the past several weeks when the U.S. was encouraging American citizens in Ukraine to consider leaving, but was not explicitly telling them they need to leave immediately.

But now, with dwindling ability for U.S. diplomats in Russia to come to the assistance of American citizens if they were to become detained and less and less options for Americans to fly out of the country, the U.S. says, it is time to leave.

And in the latest indication of the concerns about that, we are learning about WNBA player Brittney Griner apparently detained in Russia for what Customs officials say was some hashish oil found in her luggage. A representative for the WNBA player saying that they are in contact with her lawyers and that her health and safety are that top concern for them.

The U.S. continuing its diplomacy today with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Poland, where he visited a refugee settlement center and also met with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister on the Ukraine-Poland border.

The top Ukrainian diplomat really putting Blinken on the spot, saying that it is NATO's responsibility to step up and that Ukrainians will pay the price for the reluctance of NATO and the West to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

But even as the U.S. says that is not in the cards, Blinken telling the Ukrainian diplomat that the U.S. will continue to step up with even more weapons that the U.S. will be shipping to Ukraine as NATO Allies try to provide Ukrainians what they need to fight the Russians themselves.

SHARPTON: Thanks to NBC's Josh Lederman for that reporting.

Coming up, reports of racism as people flee Ukraine.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The Ukrainians were let in, and the foreigners are segregated to one side.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHARPTON: What stories like this could reveal about the struggle refugees face around the world. That's next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[17:43:02]

SHARPTON: The face of Ukrainian refugee crisis was in the news this week as videos and reports surfaced of Black people, many of them African students, attempting to flee the Russian invasion of Ukraine and being met with discrimination and refusal at border crossings, deprioritized in favor of white Ukrainians, a reminder that even in the worst of global human crisis, race can and all too often does come up.

Joining me now is Charles Blow, "New York Times" columnist and host of "Prime with Charles Blow."

Charles, is it fair to say plain and simple that this Ukraine refugee crisis should be a reminder that all refugees are not Black and Brown are that anyone can be a refugee, and they all should be treated equally and fairly, because we spent a lot of time this week, some of us in the Civil Rights community talking to the U.S. State Department in the U.N. about intervening on these reports.

CHARLES BLOW, COLUMNIST, "THE NEW YORK TIMES": Absolutely, Reverend, and thank you for having me.

I mean, what it shows us is that in times of severe stress, when you don't have the opportunity for reflection, when your first thought is your only thought that racial tribalism comes rushing to the forefront, and that becomes the motivating actor.

As you just described, you know bombs -- everyone there is in danger. Bombs and bullets do not have gray. They do not know if you're Ukrainian or if you're African and they don't care. Right?

And so everyone there is in the same level of danger, and yet the instinct of some people, it appears from both the video we've seen and from the reports of the people who said that they were discriminated against that that racial tribalism was the trump card, and was the activating motivator for the people who were directing people onto those trains.

[17:45:23]

SHARPTON: And I should say that I've talked with some senior members of the State Department here who are looking into it, because this is extremely troubling, the videos and the reports we're getting, and we're going to stay on it.

But Charles, do you get the sense that we will see anti-Russian sentiment here in the U.S. that could potentially become violent? On the other side of this, can we see in this country, some anti-Russian sentiment?

BLOW: I'm not exactly sure. I mean, one of the very -- the heartening things about this crisis and particularly young Russians, both in Russia, thousands of them have been arrested, because they were demonstrating and saying not in my name, you will not commit this sort of atrocity, war crime in my name.

And also, we've seen the same thing for Russian expats in other countries saying: This is not what I want to be associated with. I think that that is very heartening actually. I don't think that it is a tit-for-tat in that way.

I do think it will be difficult, however, to try to get some justice for the Black people who were -- who say that they were mistreated, because, you know, Ukraine is a cesspool of corruption, including the judiciary, and there is no way of knowing whether or not even after this, if it will be Ukraine, or if it will be Russia, no way of knowing if the prosecutors would be willing to bring any kind of case in its wake, no way of knowing if these Africans legally want to go back into this environment to pursue those certain cases.

So it's just -- it's a very difficult situation on all fronts.

SHARPTON: Now, we're out of time, but I must ask you, do you think this crisis in Ukraine is in any way bringing Americans closer together or further apart?

I mean, we saw what's happening with some bipartisan efforts in terms of the Congress and the meeting with Zelensky today, is there any sense that you and I deal with the divisions in this country all the time in our work, is there any sense that this might be one issue that there's more coming together of American citizens in terms of dealing with this crisis?

BLOW: Well, I think what happens is when you show people, angry people, including Americans, human suffering, the natural humane response to that is to have compassion and empathy.

The problem I think, that some people are having is that we don't show the same human suffering of other people who are not White in the same way, and so I think people are drawing a distinction and saying, let's just compare these two things or these several things and how we respond differently, how even neighboring countries around Ukraine respond differently to Ukrainian refugees, as opposed to refugees who are not White, and who are not Europeans, and drawing out the difference.

I think, yes, we are united in the sense that we -- you know, human beings who are suffering deserve sympathy, but we are not united in the sense that all human beings who are suffering deserve the same privileges.

SHARPTON: Are we doing the same for everyone, even in moments of unity?

Charles Blow, thank you for being with us tonight.

Up next, my final thoughts.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[17:53:30]

SHARPTON: After the show tonight, I will be traveling to Selma, Alabama to join for the commemoration of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery in the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. I'll be preaching at the Brown Chapel AME Church, which was the headquarters for Dr. King and others then, and I'll be saying to them that we must pray for the people in Ukraine, because we understand when your democratic principles are threatened.

It will be the first time that many of us will march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge that John Lewis and Hosea Williams, and Amelia Boynton and others were teargassed and beaten, since John Lewis is death. The last time he was there live, I was among those that held him up to speak.

I thought about what John Lewis would say to us. He would challenge the world to make sure that not only do we stand consistently for democracy in Ukraine, but stand for it in states that are changing laws in this country and you cannot fight for democracy globally, and not fight for it domestically.

But he would also challenge us to pray and stand with children, victims of an invasion that's running for their lives, that we should not become as insensitive and selective in our outrage as those that we fight.

Yes, we must deal with the reported bigotry at the borders, but we must not become in any way insensitive to the fact that they are a people under siege and we must not act like people that have treated us the same way.

[17:55:21]

SHARPTON: That does it for me. Thank you for watching.

Alicia Menendez picks up our news coverage at the top of the hour.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[18:00:00]

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