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Testimonial of Frank Corva

Frank has a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Applied Linguistics from Teachers College, Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Communications from New York University. He's also studied social work, psychology and business. He's lived, studied and worked in Ghana, Italy, Japan and Venezuela but is based in New York City (US). He's currently the [Business Correspondent for Bitcoin Magazine](#) and a [contributor at Forbes Digital Assets](#). He also interviews guests from the Global South for his podcast, ["New Renaissance Capital"](#). As both a writer and podcaster, he looks at how Bitcoin helps those who've been disenfranchised by or cut off from the traditional financial system. Before working as a writer and podcaster, Frank taught college-level writing courses to non-native English speakers and [trained ESL/ENL teachers at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York University, Baruch College \(CUNY\) and Hunter College \(CUNY\)](#). He's also helped create an [online course for the United Nations' SDG Academy](#), [upgraded a trade school in rural Ghana](#), [taught at a high school in a barrio of Barquisimeto, Venezuela](#), and counseled Holocaust survivors.

I lived in Venezuela toward the latter part of Hugo Chávez's rule over the country. One of the first memories that comes to mind from that time is how I couldn't withdraw money from my US bank account via Venezuelan ATMs, because Venezuela had been cut off from the SWIFT system. I didn't think about this inconvenience too much at the time, but I've come to understand how detrimental it is to those living in the country who need financial aid from abroad.

Being cut off from the rest of the world financially makes life extremely difficult for those living in a hyperinflationary environment like Venezuela. Many of those who I was close with while I lived there have had to flee the country to look for work, because even if they had the skills to work for international institutions, receiving payment from these institutions was quite a challenge/borderline impossible.

Some have been able to continue working there, though, receiving payment in bitcoin (BTC) and stablecoins like tether (USDT). Also, since 2019, aid providers have been using these digital assets and networks to [bypass corruption and state control of money](#). And Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez has used BTC and stablecoins to [pay medical doctors and nurses](#) who work in Venezuela.

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The situation in Venezuela is an extreme example of how Bitcoin can be a financial lifeline for those living in oppressive environments. Each week for my podcast, I speak with guests from Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia who are using Bitcoin — the network and the asset — to [transact globally](#), [preserve their wealth amidst highly inflationary environments](#), [store their wealth as they have to flee their country](#) or [deliver money to activists living in jurisdictions under authoritarian rule](#). The stories I hear from these guests may be in some ways less dramatic than what I hear from Venezuelans, but they're equally as important.

To amplify these stories, I've begun publishing them in outlets like *Forbes*, where I've written about how [unbanked Peruvian Bitcoin users are changing their community](#) or about how [bitcoin is a money of last resort for human rights activists](#). For other major outlets, I've also shared stories of how [African women are benefitting from adopting Bitcoin](#) and how [Bitcoin mixing services help provide the necessary anonymity for activists](#).

Before shifting my career to writing about Bitcoin and documenting stories of its adoption, I'd dedicated my life to working in human services and education both in the US and abroad. If I didn't feel Bitcoin was a tremendous net positive for humanity — especially for some of the most disenfranchised among us — I wouldn't spend most of my waking hours doing the work I do.

I believe that human beings — wherever they may reside — have the right to transact with one another and the right to do all they can to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Bitcoin helps preserve these rights, therefore bringing hope to many who use it. We cannot let this hope die. We must defend it.