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Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



UCCA Issues Open Letters to Congressional Leaders and Secretary Pompeo

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, has sent urgent letters of appeal to the co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the Senate Ukraine Caucus, the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, requesting they “hold congressional hearings about Russia’s blatant use of force against Ukraine.” Explaining that while the Ukrainian-American community is grateful for the many “recent statements and stalwart support for Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence,” from leaders in Congress, UCCA’s letter underscores that Ukraine stands at “a watershed moment in its history.” In explaining the urgency of the letter, UCCA President, Andriy Futey, highlighted the plight of the [24](#)

measure to secure their immediate release,” stated Mr. Futey.

At the same time, UCCA forwarded an open letter to U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, as he departed to Brussels, Belgium, to attend the semi-annual meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers. Echoing UCCA’s previous statements condemning Russia’s premeditated and deliberate act of aggression against Ukraine on November 25, 2018, the letter to Secretary Pompeo requests that he propose a collective call by NATO member states for the immediate return to Ukraine of the captured Ukrainian warships and military personnel. The letter goes on to reference the [stalled NATO Black Sea Action Plan](#) in the planning since the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit, which proposed to “substantially increase in [NATO’s presence and maritime activity](#)” in the Black Sea. Following on [Senator John Barasso’s call to action](#) on Meet the Press, UCCA’s letter also asks the Summit leaders to consider “the immediate [deployment of naval vessels from NATO member states](#) to Ukrainian and NATO ally ports in the Black Sea.”

As the bastion of democracy in the free world, the United States bears a moral obligation to take the lead in promoting international norms, defending basic human rights and freedoms, and charting a course of geopolitical stability. The Ukrainian-American community believes that the national security interests of the United States lie in the fulfillment of that obligation.

[Download UCCA's Letter to
Congressional Leaders](#)

[Download UCCA's Letter to
Secretary Pompeo](#)

[Download this Press Release](#)

UCCA continues to urge our community to action in support of Ukraine on the local level.

7 Steps to Organizing a Protest or Action

1. **Build your team:** Reach out to friends, [UCCA branch member organizations](#), and members of your community to see who else is ready to speak out. Bring everyone together quickly – even if it’s just a group text! – and decide who is

of people to bring them into your team.

2. **Location:** Remember that the purpose of a peaceful protest or vigil is to get your message directly to decision makers, while also raising awareness publicly. Go to a recognizable and publicly accessible area, landmark or government building and assemble out in front, in a space that is visible, where you're sure that as many people as possible will see you and hear your message.
3. **Get on message:** We want to say loud and clear that we stand against policies that discriminate, and we say **#StopRussianAggression** or **#RussiaAttacksUkraine**. (You can download some sample signs here - www.ucc.ca/signs - compiled by our friends at the Canadian Ukrainian Congress or make your own banner with the similar messaging. Make sure that you are heard by your representatives in Congress by following up with phone calls.
4. **Build Support:** Invite other organizations and community groups, including other ethnocultural community leaders. Ask them to help with organizing, including the look and feel of your peaceful protest or vigil, and ask them to help recruit people to come.
5. **Recruit:** Create a Facebook event, and ask other organizations to link your event. But don't rely on Facebook alone!! The first rule of mobilizing: ask people! Most people show up to actions through word of mouth. Call each of your friends or ask them in person to show up, and when they say yes, ask them to bring 3-5 friends.
6. **Include a call to action:** Whether you light candles, write messages on a large board, chalk or lay down flowers, it is always impactful for people to feel physically involved in the action. Go further: ask everyone who comes to your vigil to call their Senators and Member of Congress immediately afterward, and ask people who can help organize the next vigil.
7. **Follow up:** Use this a chance to recruit and develop leadership in others. Get everyone's name, email address and phone number. Call each of them after the action to thank them for coming and ask them to come to your next meeting, be part of planning your next action, or bring their friends to your next action.

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[WHAT IS UCCA?](#)

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization

[ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?](#)

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією,



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