UCCA CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC FOLLOWING NORMANDY SUMMIT

On December 9, the leaders of Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia emerged to announce the results of a full day of high-level meetings at the Palais de l'Élysée in Paris. Following this first face-to-face negotiation with Vladimir Putin since his election in April, President Zelenskyy announced an exchange of all detained prisoners of war to be expected by the end of the year, and the renewed implementation of a cease-fire regime in the Donbas region of Ukraine beginning in 2020.

Prior to this summit, rallies in support of Ukraine were held in France, Ukraine, and the United States; Ukrainians proclaimed in unison their support for continuing Ukraine’s course towards Euro-Atlantic and NATO integration and condemning Russia’s continued occupation of Ukrainian territory.

Since the election of President Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative body of nearly 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, has repeatedly underscored these and other longstanding Ukrainian principles of sovereignty and self-determination in its communication with the President of Ukraine. Of note:
In its congratulatory letter to President Zelenskyy prior to his inauguration, UCCA underscored the importance of “maintaining the territorial integrity of Ukraine,” and further Ukrainian integration into the Euro-Atlantic structure – “including NATO and the European Union”;

- Following Ukraine’s agreement to the so-called “Steinmeier Formula,” UCCA joined with the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) in asking for clarity and transparency from Ukrainian officials regarding “any agreement to hold elections in areas of Ukraine currently occupied by Russia,” stating clearly that “Ukraine must never agree to Russian demands regarding Ukrainian elections”;

- And on the eve of the Normandy Format summit in Paris, UCCA again joined with the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) campaign to #StandwithUkraine #StopRussianAggression, reiterating that “Russia must be compelled to end its military aggression against Ukraine,” which has resulted in nearly 14,000 casualties, over 30,000 wounded, and close to 2 million internally displaced.

President Zelenskyy’s stated doctrine of non-negotiable principles following the Normandy Summit reflects positively on UCCA’s and UWC’s advocacy in several areas, notably his statement that Ukraine is “an independent, democratic state, whose development vector will be chosen exclusively by its people,” and the “impossibility of compromise on the settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine through concessions to territories within internationally defined borders.”

UCCA renews our call on the international community to strengthen international sanctions on Russia until the aggressor state de-occupies all sovereign Ukrainian territory, including Crimea and regions of the Donets’k and Luhans’k oblasts.

Download our statement (PDF)
UCCA has worked for the benefit of not only the Ukrainian American community, but also that of an independent Ukraine. Only with your continued support, can UCCA continue to pursue our longstanding mission of increasing the importance and role of the Ukrainian American community and presenting our community's desire to aid the people of Ukraine.

Will you renew your support of Ukrainian American advocacy by supporting UCCA with a generous gift today?

At our heart, whether speaking with your elected leaders or advocating in the media, we remain a community organization, supported by the enthusiasm of our members and volunteers, and financial support from you.

Thank you!

If you've missed any updates of the work you've enabled over the past year, please look through our 2019 bulletins linked to below:

November 2019 (in Ukrainian)
WHAT IS UCCA?
The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented

ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?
Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє