



Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

TO: UCCA Branches
FROM: UCCA National Office
RE: 365 Days of Resilience

Dear UCCA Branches:

On February 24th, Ukrainians around the world will honor the most difficult year in recent modern history for our Ukrainian homeland and hromada, when an unprovoked, genocidal war against Ukraine was launched in direct violation of all international law.

Therefore, we wanted to share some ideas being coordinated throughout the worldwide Ukrainian hromada for appropriately commemorating this tragic anniversary.

- The first worldwide action is for candlelight vigils to be coordinated with media coverage in your local area, and to be organized at some point within a 48-hour period beginning on the evening of Thursday, February 23.
- The second worldwide action is to request your local government buildings or landmarks to be lit up in Ukraine's national colors of blue and yellow. As an example, the UCCA National Office will be working towards lighting the Empire State Building in NYC. If such a project is not realistic in your community, we urge you to request that your town hall hold a flag raising ceremony to fly the Ukrainian flag.
- The third worldwide action is spearheaded by both His Beatitude Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and His Beatitude Epifaniy of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Communities have been asked to coordinate special prayer services at some point during the week of February 19-26 in honor of the lives lost in the course of this genocidal invasion.

If your Viddil/Hromada has other plans to mark this anniversary, please share them with UCCA's National Office. Some communities throughout the USA have already announced their plans, and we are gathering them on UCCA's website: <https://ucca.org/24february2023>

Attached you will find a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the Ukrainian World Congress (CKY), which will compile a worldwide list of events throughout our global community. This will include a webinar co-sponsored by CKY on February 25. UCCA's National Office has organized 2 webinars in February, while the ODFFU/UAFF has a webinar scheduled at the conclusion of the month. Please review <https://ucca.org/24february2023> for registration links and upcoming announcements.

According to the Congressional Calendar, the House of Representatives will be in recess from February 10-26, with Members of Congress making themselves available during this time back in their home districts. Supporters of Ukraine should also do their very best to schedule local meetings with their newly elected representatives in the 118th United States Congress during this recess and invite them to your local events commemoration 1 year of Ukrainian resiliency.

Attached you will find a letter of request for your local Governor and/or Mayor. We would also urge you to ask your local elected officials if they would be able to provide a video statement as well as attend your local events.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the UCCA National Office at (212) 228-6840, or by email at ucca@ucca.org. As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Sincerely,
UCCA National Office



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Draft Letter to Governors/Mayors

2023

Dear Governor/Mayor:

This year, on February 24th, Ukrainians around the world will gather in honor of the most difficult year in recent modern history for our Ukrainian homeland, when an unprovoked, genocidal war against Ukraine was launched in direct violation of all international law.

Over the past year, Ukrainians have suffered much hardship. In total, some 8.5 million people - or nearly 19% of the total Ukrainian population - remain displaced outside Ukraine, with a further 6 million currently displaced within Ukraine. To every extent that is possible, the Ukrainian American community has dedicated numerous services towards aiding and acclimating displaced Ukrainians here in the United States. This includes addressing those individuals currently suffering with severe post-traumatic effects. Cases related to sexual and gender-based violence have presented specific challenges. The inhumanity documented includes examples of cases where relatives were forced to witness crimes committed against their own family members: children watching parents, parents witnessing their children, even the open murder of grandparents; the age of victims of sexual and gendered-based violence ranged from four to 82 years.

It is not possible to confirm the precise number of children that have been direct casualties, but OHCHR has verified that this invasion has killed more than 400 children, and injured 750 as of mid-November. Children are not only suffering from a loss of education, they are also enduring freezing temperatures amid food shortages, as blackouts from the continued attacks against Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure cause food to perish.

As your constituents, we urge you to issue a proclamation proclaiming solidarity with the people of Ukraine on the 1-year anniversary of this blatant violation of international law, recognizing that the acts of barbarism cited above as evidence of the steps taken by authoritarian regimes to eradicate a nation or ethnic group. At this critical juncture in Ukraine's struggle to maintain its freedom, such a proclamation would send a strong message to the Ukrainian people that the United States supports their aspirations to live in a free and democratic nation, and condemns the aggressive and imperialistic actions of our common enemy.

In looking forward to your positive response, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

DRAFT PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the Sovereignty of Ukraine and the Unbreakable Spirit of the People of Ukraine

WHEREAS, one year ago, on February 24, 2022, an unprovoked, genocidal military assault against Ukraine was launched in direct violation of all international law; and

WHEREAS the territorial integrity of Ukraine is sovereign and inviolable, and portions of Ukraine's territory are currently under foreign military occupation, we honor the efforts and sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in their heroic defense of the entire European continent and our United States allies against further aggressive actions; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine has always had a special bond with the United States, with Ukraine sending servicemen and women to serve alongside U.S. forces in theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq throughout an over 25-year working relationship on NATO deployments; and

WHEREAS, since the invasion of Ukraine began in 2014, the United States and its allies have helped train Ukraine's Armed Forces, we honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for providing the educational materials and training to further the professional development and increase the overall readiness of Ukraine's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have opened their homes to Ukrainians displaced by the war in their homeland, and have personally donated time and again to humanitarian relief for the victims of this invasion, we honor the American spirit of generosity as an essential part of what makes us an exceptional nation; and

WHEREAS, for centuries the people of Ukraine yearned and struggled to achieve an independent state all the while preserving their culture, language, and self-identity; and,

WHEREAS, Ukrainian Americans continue to make significant contributions to the cultural fabric of the United States while never forgetting about their rich history and heritage, more than 100 years since first immigrating to this great nation, with which they share the collective U.S.-Ukrainian values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, "*Governor's/Mayor's Name, Governor/Mayor of State/City,*" on behalf of its citizens, do hereby proclaim solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom, I commend them for their strength, courage and bravery. On this day, let us recommit ourselves to helping the Ukrainian nation reclaim full sovereignty over its international borders and remember its heroes who sacrificed their lives to ensure freedom and happiness of the future generations.