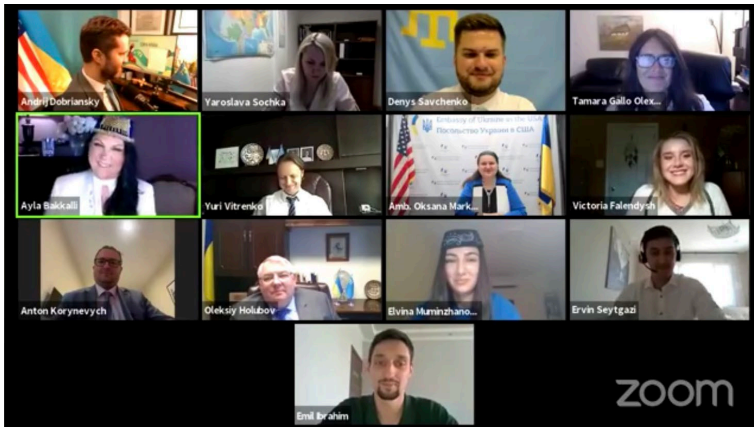


UCCA COMMEMORATES CRIMEAN TATAR FLAG DAY WITH ONLINE FORUM

On June 24th, UCCA held a webinar joint with the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, entitled “Making Ukraine Whole Again – A Commemoration of Crimean Tatar Flag Day.” The virtual forum featured a dozen speakers from the diplomatic and NGO communities, including: Oksana Markarova, Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S.A.; Yuri Vitrenko, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN; Oleksii Holubov, Consul General of Ukraine in NY; Anton Korynevych, Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol; Denys Savchenko, Board Member of CrimeasOS; Ayla Bakkalli, Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and Tamara Olexy, UCCA Executive Director. Andriy Dobriansky, UCCA’s Director of Communications and Media served as the event’s moderator.



Sadly since Russia’s illegal occupation of Crimea in 2014, the Ukrainian flag is considered a “prohibited” symbol, while the Crimean Tatar flag is treated as an “extremist” symbol, and those that freely fly either continue to be imprisoned.

Resistance against the 2014 illegal occupation of the Crimean peninsula continues to be expressed through the motto, “One nation, two flags.” In a show of solidarity, Crimean Tatar flags are raised all over Ukraine and at Ukrainian embassies abroad each June 26th.



Various policies, strategies, and initiatives were discussed at the forum by the two diaspora communities – Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar –working jointly to find ways to make Ukraine whole again.

If you were unable to join the commemoration, the forum can be viewed on UCCA’s Facebook and YouTube channels.

UCCA PRESIDENT HELD MEETINGS IN UKRAINE

After a 15-month hiatus due to coronavirus pandemic and travel restrictions, UCCA’s President Andriy Futey, returned to Ukraine in mid-June to discuss recent US-Ukraine relations with high-level government, security and diplomatic officials, religious hierarchy as well as a member of parliament.

The packed agenda included discussions about restoring U.S. sanctions on Russia’s natural-gas pipeline project Nord Stream 2, continued military assistance for Kyiv, assurance of NATO membership for Ukraine, President Zelensky’s upcoming visit to the White House, and this year’s 30th anniversary of renewed independence and its preceding “Crimean Platform” event.



Futey (right) participates in a video conference with Ukrainian presidential office head Andriy Yermak (head of table), deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office Andriy Sybiha (center-left), Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Vasyl Bodnar and UWC President Paul Grod (not pictured), who participated via Zoom, on June 12.



Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine & UCCA President Andriy Futey

To read more about Andriy Futey’s trip to Ukraine: [UCCA President Futey visits Ukraine, discusses U.S.-Ukraine relations | The Ukrainian Weekly \(ukrweekly.com\)](#)

REPORT CARD CONFERENCE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES

On June 16-17, the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Information Service, and the American Foreign Policy Council, in partnership with the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and the Open World Program, convened the ninth US-UA Working Group Summit: Providing Ukraine with an Annual Report Card.

This online conference, held in (2) four-hour segments spanning two consecutive days, brought together key government and non-government representatives from Ukraine, Canada, the EU and the U.S. to take measure of Ukraine's 2020-2021 progress/regress in six categories: "robust democratic politics, mature market economics, ever greater energy security, ever greater general security, viable social cohesion and an established national identity."



In addition to speakers such as Ambassadors Volker, Popadiuk, Taylor and Herbst, the conference featured remarks by Dmytro Razumkov, Speaker of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada (parliament), Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Matters of Integration of Ukraine with the European Union, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and a video greeting from Sen. Robert Portman (R-OH). For a full list of speakers and to view the conference proceedings please visit <https://bit.ly/UCCATube>.



Throughout the conference the speakers provided their grades on the topic at hand. At the conclusion of the two-day conference, the Tally Master, Andrij Dobriansky, calculated all the grades from the over two dozen speakers and determined that the overall grade Ukraine received for 2020-21 was a C+. The audience, which also was able to grade Ukraine's progress/regress was a little more gracious and graded Ukraine a B-.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S CONSTITUTION - JUNE 28TH

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the representative organization of the over 1.5 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins the global Ukrainian hromada in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of Ukraine's Constitution.

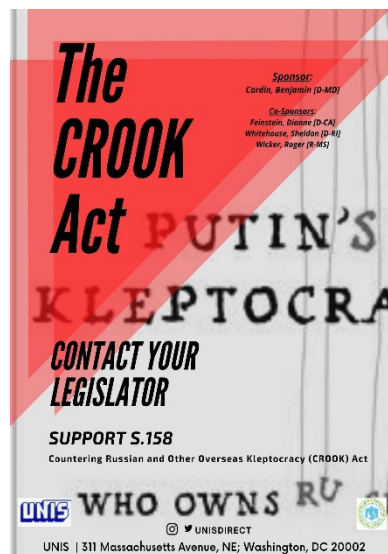
After a centuries-long struggle for independence – twenty-five years ago today, the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine secured a legal framework for an independent country. The adoption of Ukraine's Constitution on June 28, 1996 was an important milestone in the life of the people of Ukraine by ensuring their human and civil rights while protecting their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

May Ukraine's Constitution, the backbone of the country, always protect the rights of her citizens and keep the government accountable to her people.

Glory to Ukraine on Constitution Day!

SUPPORT THE CROOK ACT

The *Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy* (CROOK) Act, is a bill to "promote international efforts in combating corruption, kleptocracy, and illicit finance by foreign officials and other foreign persons, including through a new anti-corruption action fund.



UNIS – the UCCA's Washington, D.C.,-based bureau - urges you to contact your Senators and Representative and request their co-sponsorship of S.158 and H.R.402 – the CROOK Act. Your assistance is critically important to assure that Russia's malign influence is halted at all levels.

Please visit the Senate and House websites and find your Senators and Representative to send them an inquiry:

United States Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/>

House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/>