

## UCCA COMMEMORATES 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BABYN YAR

Eighty years ago, during the Nazi occupation of Kyiv, the gruesome slaughter of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children began at Babyn Yar (which means “old women’s ravine” in Ukrainian). Within a 36-hour period, more than 30,000 Jews were mercilessly massacred by Hitler’s henchmen. Following the first mass execution, a restricted zone around the ravine was sealed off. The killings, however, did not end. Over the next several years, Babyn Yar became a veritable killing field, where an estimated 170,000 victims – among them Jews, Ukrainians, Poles, Roma, political opponents, clergy, UPA members and Soviet prisoners of war – were ruthlessly murdered. To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Babyn Yar, on October 26<sup>th</sup>, UCCA, joined the chorus of voices in speaking the truth about one of the darkest chapters in the history of Genocide by hosting a virtual forum. Leading the conversation between representatives of the Ukrainian and Jewish American diasporas was UCCA’s President Andriy Futey. In his opening remarks he provided a brief historical account of Babyn Yar and the importance of commemorating this anniversary.

David Harris, CEO of the American Jewish Congress (AJC), brought a human touch to the tragedy by relaying an earlier personal story and then reflected on his recent trip to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Expressing his feelings that in the midst of this tragedy and sadness, Mr. Harris came to understand that he needed to find hope, “and maybe that is the lesson of this occasion as we commemorate together.”



Ukraine’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, spoke to the history of Babyn Yar, as “one of Europe’s largest murder sites” underscoring that it wasn’t until Ukraine’s independence that the ideological restrictions imposed by the communist regime were lifted and we could begin to mourn Babyn Yar.

Adrian Karatnycky, founder and co-Director of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, spoke more broadly about the mutual history the Ukrainian and Jewish people share, by revealing UJE’s motto “our stories are incomplete without each other.”

The evening’s last speaker was the Director of Eurasian Affairs at AJC, Sam Kliger, who reflected on his recent participation in the major events in Kyiv and underscored that the cooperation between the Jewish and Ukrainian communities, between the AJC and UCCA, gives us all hope.

To view the entire program, please visit: <https://youtu.be/NugIZaotT-o>

## XXII ROUNDTABLE CONCLUDES



On October 21<sup>st</sup>, UCCA co-hosted the annual Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable XXII: Forging A Strong Yet Forbearing National Identity – Past Endeavors.

The gathering was the first in a new critically important trilogy of UA Quest Roundtables (2021-23) essentially dedicated to exploring and evaluating Ukraine’s efforts to establish a distinctive but broadminded national identity. With over two dozen speakers, the conference was tasked to look at the past, to examine Ukraine’s attempt to define itself in the midst (or in the aftermath) of two World Wars and a global Cold War as well as a nation breaking Famine Genocide. The proceedings, in the context of the said exploration, also looked at the various DEZINFORM campaigns that were launched to deform the process, including Putin’s recent ‘Memory Wars’ campaign.

This was the first in-person collaboration in Washington, D.C. by UCCA, the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, the Ukrainian National Information Service and the American Foreign Policy Council since March 2020.

If you were not able to attend, you can view the entire proceedings at:

Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/Q8zgzEigUUA>

Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/iUACe63fXKE>

## A CALL TO SUPPORT SENATE RESOLUTION 360

UCCA's Washington, D.C.,-based bureau - the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) - is asking our community to contact their respective senators to co-sponsor S.Res 360 – a resolution commemorating Ukraine's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of renewed independence.

A few key highlights in S.Res 360:

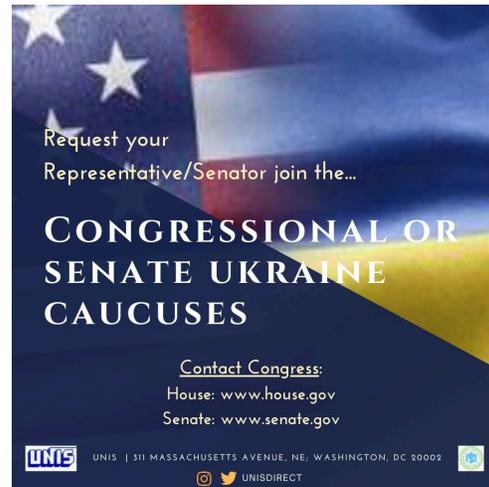
- ☑ calls upon the United States Government and its international allies and partners to increase sanctions pressure against the Russian Federation until the Russian Federation upholds its international obligations to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including obligations under the Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed at Budapest December 5, 1994;
- ☑ affirms the unwavering commitment of the United States Government to support the continuing efforts of the Government of Ukraine to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity by providing consistent political and diplomatic support and additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine on land and sea and in the air;
- ☑ applauds the progress that the Government of Ukraine has made in aligning with Euro-Atlantic norms and standards and improving military combat readiness and interoperability with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Currently S.Res 360 has 15 co-sponsors, a list of which is provided below. Should your senators not be found on the list of co-sponsors, UNIS urges you to contact your elected officials and request their co-sponsorship of the Senate resolution:

Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)  
Rob Portman (R-OH)  
Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)  
Ron Johnson (R-WI)  
Richard Durbin (D-IL)  
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)  
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)  
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)  
Thomas Tillis (R-NC)  
Chris Coons (D-DE)  
Charles Grassley (R-IA)  
John Barrasso (R-WY)  
John Boozman (R-AR)  
Rick Scott (R-FL)  
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

## CUC & SUC SEEK MEMBERSHIP

The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and the Senate Ukraine Caucus are seeking membership for its legislative activities.



The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), UCCA's Washington, DC bureau, urges you to contact your Representative and Senators and request their membership and active participation in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and Senate Ukraine Caucus, respectively. Your assistance is critically important to assure robust bipartisan Caucuses that can assist with enhancing the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States.

## AD MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that UCCA learned of the passing of long-time Executive Board Member Ivan Burtyk on October 31<sup>st</sup>. As Chair of UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians (CAU/RODU), his commitment to assisting Ukrainians living in Kazakhstan was unparalleled. During his tenure as CAU Chair, three Ukrainian churches as well as a memorial to the victims of Kingir were built and unveiling in Kazakhstan.

Ivan Burtyk was a recipient of both the UCCA's and the Ukrainian World Congress' highest accolades, the Shevchenko Freedom Award and the St. Volodymyr the Great Medal respectively.

UCCA sends its sincerest condolences to his entire family.

May He Rest in Peace! Vichnaya Pamyiat!