



Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки, Інк. UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA, INC.

NATIONAL OFFICE

203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003
Phone: (212) 228-6840/41
e-mail: ucca@ucca.org

WASHINGTON OFFICE

311 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: (202) 547-0018 · Fax: (202) 547-0019
www.ucca.org e-mail: unis@ucca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2024

UCCA Condemns Hate Crime at University of Connecticut Campus

New York (UCCA) – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the nation’s largest umbrella organization representing the interests of 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, condemns the recent hate crime incident directed against Ukrainian American students on the University of Connecticut’s Storrs campus.

Following last week’s peaceful student event marking the second anniversary of Russia’s unprovoked, brutal invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian flags and ribbons that were placed on the lawn were defaced with the letter “Z”. Defiling the Ukrainian ribbons and flags in this way was not simply an act of vandalism or hate. The use of the letter "Z" in this context is hardly benign and certainly not "academic freedom of expression." The letter "Z" is a call to commit genocide against Ukrainians. The criminals responsible for this act are employing it just as Moscow does, as a direct threat to the lives and well-being of not only the Ukrainian American students at the University of Connecticut but to all students who support democracy and stand against violence.

Hate crimes, Russian threats of violence, or calls for genocide, are unacceptable anywhere, more so on a college campus. UCCA stands together with the University of Connecticut community in holding dear our shared cherished principles of academic freedom of expression and constructive dialogue. Furthermore, UCCA counts on the community to stand together against convoluting those principles in the service of promoting violence. We expect the University of Connecticut administration will promptly investigate this incident, hold those responsible accountable for their actions and guarantee the safety of their students.

www.ucca.org • www.facebook.com/UCCA.org