

# ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF UKRAINIANS IN HELP OF UKRAINE (2022–2025)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is an important organizational center for the Ukrainian diaspora in over 80 countries around the world. It unites Ukrainians abroad around a common goal – to support the homeland in its fight against the russian aggressor. Today, we can confidently say that the UWC has become the “global voice of Ukrainians in the world”. After all, over twenty-five million Ukrainians live outside Ukraine, and the Ukrainian diaspora has never before been so numerous.

In the context of a large-scale russian aggression against Ukraine, the UWC mobilizes the Ukrainian diaspora for humanitarian, financial and informational assistance, advocates internationally strengthening Ukrainian identity abroad and influencing the adoption of important decisions in the international arena regarding the Ukrainian statehood. The main strategic direction of the UWC’s activities is the slogan: “Towards victory together with Ukraine!”.

Analysis and summary of the UWC’s activities from the beginning of the full-scale russian aggression against Ukraine to the present day will allow us to assess the effectiveness of global support for Ukraine during the large-scale war, record the contribution of the diaspora to the struggle for the defense of the sovereignty of the Ukrainian state and improve the ways of its modern international support.

The issue of the Russian-Ukrainian war is the subject of active research by Ukrainian historians, who study its preconditions, course, consequences, and impact on the development of Ukraine and the world<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Галів М., Ільницький В. Характер сучасної російсько-української війни (2014–2023): вітчизняний історіографічний дискурс. *Проблеми гуманітарних наук: збірник наукових праць Дрогобицького державного педагогічного університету імені Івана Франка*. Серія: Історія. 2023. Вип. 13/55. С. 47–73; Галів М., Ільницький В., Карпенко О. Проблематика геноциду Росії щодо українців в українських засобах масової інформації (2022–2024). *Новітня доба*. 2024. Вип. 12. С. 75–96; Ільницький В., Куцька, О. Періодизація російсько-української війни (2014–2022) в українському науковому дискурсі. *Проблеми гуманітарних наук: збірник наукових праць Дрогобицького державного педагогічного університету імені Івана*

The strategic directions of assistance provided to Ukraine by the Ukrainian diaspora during the period of martial law are elucidated in the publication by O. Hrachevska and D. Akhmadzhanova. It shows that starting from 2014, Ukraine has received significant support from the Ukrainians abroad, especially during the unfolding of the Euromaidan events, the annexation of Crimea, the war in Eastern Ukraine, and the full-scale russian invasion<sup>2</sup>.

The UWC's opposition to russia's aggressive policy is highlighted by A. Kononenko. The scholar proves that UWC organizations, through governments and parliaments, have been seeking the extension of sanctions against the russian federation since the beginning of the war in 2014, demanding the release of all Ukrainian political prisoners, and providing considerable financial and humanitarian assistance to

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Франка. Серія Історія. 2023. Вип. 13/55. С. 162–177. DOI: 10.24919/2312-2595.13/55.283087; Галів М., Гранд М. «Русский мир» проти України: коротка деконструкція новітньої російської геополітичної доктрини. *Проблеми гуманітарних наук. Серія Історія*. 2024. Спецвипуск. С. 172–177. DOI: 10.24919/2312-2595.spec.16 ; Галів М., Гранд М., Бойчин Р. Початок повномасштабної війни Росії проти України у висвітленні польського інформаційного порталу «Nowa Europa Wschodnia» (лютий–березень 2022 р.). *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук*. Вип. 72(1). С. 52–60. DOI: 10.24919/2308-4863/72-1-7; Ільницький В., Старка В., Галів М. Російська пропаганда як елемент підготовки до збройної агресії проти України. *Український історичний журнал*. 2022. Вип. 5. С. 43–55. DOI: 10.15407/uhj2022.05.043; Ільницький В., Тельвак В., Талалай, Ю. Сучасна російсько-українська війна на шпальтах «The British Army Review» (2022–2024). *Проблеми гуманітарних наук. Серія Історія*. 2024. Спецвипуск. С. 130–146; Ільницький В., Царик Р. Матеріально-культурні аспекти увічнення пам'яті українських захисників і захисниць під час російсько-української війни (2014–2024). *Вісник Черкаського університету. Серія історичні науки*. 2024. Вип. 2. С. 105–116; Ільницький В., Царик Р. Пізнавально-інформаційні та виховні заходи щодо ушанування пам'яті учасників і жертв російсько-української війни (2014–2024). *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук*. 2024. Вип. 81 (2). С. 4–1; Ільницький В., Царик Р. Формування історико-меморіального наративу сучасної російсько-української війни. *Українські історичні студії*. 2025. Вип. 17(59). С. 213–224.; Ilnytskyi V., Telvak V. Ukraine Under the Conditions of the Second Year of Existential War in Analysts' Reflections of the Warsaw Centre for Eastern Studies. *Skhidnoevropeyskyi Istorychnyi Visnyk – East European Historical Bulletin*. 2024. Issue 31. P. 218–237. DOI: 10.24919/2519-058X.31.306344; Telvak V., Ilnytskyi V. A Year of Existential War in Analytical Reflections of the Warsaw Centre for Eastern Studies. *Skhidnoevropeyskyi Istorychnyi Visnyk – East European Historical Bulletin*. 2023. Issue 27. P. 249–258. DOI: 10.24919/2519-058X.27.281552

<sup>2</sup> Грачевська Т.О., Ахмаджанова Д.В. Роль української діаспори у підтримці України в умовах російської агресії. *Філософія та політологія в контексті сучасної культури*. 2023. Т. 15, No. 1. С. 109–119. DOI: 10.15421/352313

their homeland. Her scientific research chronologically covers the period up to 2016<sup>3</sup>. R. Popp in her research shows the UWC's humanitarian initiatives to support Ukraine during the war in 2014–2022<sup>4</sup>.

### **1. Assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine**

After the start of large-scale russian aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) significantly intensified and expanded the areas of its activities. One of the key areas was assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Therefore, in February 2022, the UWC launched the “Unite with Ukraine” initiative. This global UWC campaign was originally conceived to organize assistance to the Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine. The Director of “Unite with Ukraine” Andriy Potichnyi noted that such an emphasis was made because the territorial defense “was a new structure, and it was defined as one that probably does not have the budget of other structures, and also does not have the massive support that international partners provide to the armed forces”<sup>5</sup>.

Much attention has been paid to tactical medicine within the framework of this initiative, because the life of a soldier wounded on the battlefield directly depends on the quality of medical support. As of September 1, 2022, the project purchased and delivered to Ukrainian defenders individual First Aid Kits (IFAK) (7275), Israeli-made bandages (100,000), nasopharyngeal tubes (10,500), tourniquets (42,100), paramedic backpacks (650), occlusive dressings (1,000)<sup>6</sup>.

To strengthen front-line medical care, the UWC's “Unite with Ukraine” Initiative, together with specialists from Ukraine's military

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<sup>3</sup> Кононенко А. Світовий Конгрес Українців у контексті підтримки суверенітету України та непорушності її кордонів. *Українознавчий альманах*. 2016. Вип. 19. С. 129–133.

<sup>4</sup> Попп Р. *Гуманітарні ініціативи Всесвітнього Конгресу Українців у допомозі Україні (2014–2021 рр.)*. The Russian-Ukrainian war (2014 – 2022): historical, political, cultural-educational, religious, economic, and legal aspects: Scientific monograph. Riga, Latvia: «Baltija Publishing», 2022. С. 637–645. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-223-4-76>

<sup>5</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк, 2022. С. 8. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.p](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.p)

<sup>6</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 6. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

intelligence, developed and delivered an aid package for the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (HUR) in 2024 for the amount of 51 million hryvnias (\$1.22 million). It included 4,465 individual first aid kits (IFAKs), 20 Saros portable oxygen concentrators, 40 X-Stat Hemostasis hemostatic applicators, as well as tourniquets, hydrogel dressings, airways, and tactical stretchers<sup>7</sup>. The provided medical supplies, as noted by the head of the HUR medical department, Oleh Shchepinskyi: “does save not only the lives of the fighters, but also preserve the hearts and souls of those who are saving them”<sup>8</sup>. From October 2023 to October 2024, the UWC “Unite with Ukraine” transferred 41,850 units of various medical tactical equipment to the Ukrainian military<sup>9</sup>. Regarding its quality, the UWC is guided by its motto: “No compromises” and communicates closely with paramedics who save lives on the battlefield to determine what is needed<sup>10</sup>.

Thanks to “Unite with Ukraine”, five Ukrainian doctors in 2023 upgraded their qualifications at the best clinic in Latin America – Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein in São Paulo (Brazil)<sup>11</sup>. There were 35 applicants per one place. Ukrainian doctors received training in pre-hospital/hospital emergency care for military and civilian injuries (PHTLS, ATLS, BOGTS, eFAST, blood and difficult airway management), as well as internships in mental and physical rehabilitation, and building a healthcare system in the times of crisis. Participants

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<sup>7</sup> Світовий Конгрес Українців передав ГУР допомогу на 1,22 мільйона доларів для порятунку життів на фронті. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/svito-vyi-konhres-ukrayinciv-peredav-hur-dopomohu-na-122-miliona-dolariv-dlia-poriatun-ku-zhyttiv-na-fronti/>

<sup>8</sup> Там само.

<sup>9</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 6. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvitkinecz24f3-1.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> В єдності наша сила! Світовий Конгрес Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк, 2024. С. 18. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uplo-ads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uplo-ads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> SKU в 2023: пригадуємо рік, що минає. 29.12.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-v-2023-pryhaduyemo-rik-shcho-mynaye/>; Лікарі України в Бразилії: «Готуємося передавати знання для ЗСУ». 22.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/likari-ukrayiny-v-brazyliei-hotuyemosia-peredavaty-znannia-dlya-zsu/>

received an international ATLS certificate and a certificate after completing each course separately<sup>12</sup>.

Thanks to the cooperation between Helijet International and consortium of Canadian and Ukrainian NGOs – the Maple Hope Foundation, the UWC’s “Unite with Ukraine” initiative, and Initiative E+, a Sikorsky S-76A medical helicopter worth over \$700 was delivered to Ukraine in early 2025. The logistical issues regarding the aircraft’s delivery lasted for eight months, and two Ukrainian pilots and two engineers were trained in Canada to operate and maintain this aircraft. The Sikorsky S-76A helicopter was donated by the American company Sikorsky Aircraft. Serhiy Sikorsky (son of the company’s founder Ihor Sikorsky, who was born in Kyiv and later emigrated to the USA), the continuer of the family’s aviation heritage, noted on this occasion: “The Sikorsky name has become synonymous with innovation in the field of helicopter construction for 100 years, and now it will be part of this generous initiative that returns to its homeland to help the current generation”<sup>13</sup>.

The UWC “Unite with Ukraine” initiative has been supplying military equipment to support the Territorial Defense Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other Ukrainian structures and security forces since its inception<sup>14</sup>. From February 2022 to February 2024, 15,650 sets of armor, 9,100 ballistic helmets, 2,000 gas masks were purchased and delivered for the individual protection of Ukrainian military personnel, in addition to this: 204 sleeping bags, 21,276 sets of winter tactical footwear, 10,580 sets of thermal underwear<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Проект Unite with Ukraine СКУ: українські лікарі почали навчання в Бразилії. 14.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/projekt-unite-with-ukraine-sku-ukrayinski-likari-pochaly-navchannia-v-brazylii/>

<sup>13</sup> Світовий Конгрес Українців та Фонд Maple Hope отримали медичний гелікоптер від Helijet International для українських медиків. 10.02.2025. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/svitovyi-kongres-ukrayinciv-ta-fond-maple-hope-otrymaly-medychnyi-helikopter-vid-helijet-international-dlia-ukrayinskykh-medykiv/>

<sup>14</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюсель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк, 2022. С. 9. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> В єдності наша сила! Світовий Конгрес Українців. Київ-Брюсель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк, 2024. С. 20. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1).

In 2022 Ukrainian fighters received 50 diesel generators, fuel, walkie-talkies and other field communication equipment, night vision devices, and four-wheel drive vehicles as portable sources of electricity<sup>16</sup>. In 2023, the UWC, with the support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Territorial Defense Forces, purchased and delivered 45 British armored vehicles to the brigades of the Territorial Defense Forces. As the UWC noted in its report, “this armored vehicle significantly enhanced the capabilities of safe transportation of personnel, medical evacuation of wounded soldiers and civilians in the combat zone”<sup>17</sup>.

Also, during 2023, the UWC purchased 57 armored and tracked armored personnel carriers for the Ukrainian defenders, repaired 71 all-wheel drive military trucks GAZ-66 and two amphibious armored personnel carriers MT-LB<sup>18</sup>. In addition, the Ukrainian armed forces received four-wheel drive vehicles, excavators, and trucks from the UWC initiative. The UWC has become one of the largest non-state suppliers of armored vehicles and tracked vehicles to Ukraine, for which it received gratitude from the then Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valeriy Zaluzhnyi<sup>19</sup>.

Within the framework of the military aid project, much attention has been paid to the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicles, FPV drones, and reconnaissance complexes due to their importance in modern warfare. Separate campaigns were organized to raise funds for their purchase. The initiative called “Birds of Freedom” from the UWC and Saint Javelin was able to raise 223,016.12 USD (9.25 million hryvnias). The money was used to buy 446 FPV drones for Ukrainian defenders<sup>20</sup>. As part of the UWC “Santa’s Birds” campaign, 519,095 USD (19,697,324 UAH) were raised. These funds were used to

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<sup>16</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 10. URL: [https://www.ukrainian-world-congress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainian-world-congress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> В єдності наша сила! Світовий Конгрес Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк, 2024. С. 14. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> СКУ в 2023: пригадуємо рік, що минає. 29.12.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-v-2023-pryhaduyemo-rik-shcho-mynaye/>

<sup>19</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 7. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Там само. С. 8. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

purchase 1,000 FPV drones<sup>21</sup>. In January 2025, the fundraising campaign “Birds of Freedom 2.0” was successful accumulating an impressive amount of approximately 271,220.75 USD (11.4 million hryvnias). 1068 people from 73 countries donated, the funds collected were directed to the purchase of 660 8 and 10 inch FPV drones for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This was an important contribution to strengthening the defense capabilities of Ukraine<sup>22</sup>. UWC President Paul Grod emphasized that the UWC’s Birds of Freedom campaign demonstrated that UWC military assistance “is focused on integrating advanced technologies and unmanned systems, including FPV drones. These innovative technologies are essential to protecting Ukraine’s sovereignty, saving lives, and achieving victory”<sup>23</sup>. The UWC also created a “Strategic Advisory Council.” It included four prominent generals who provided the UWC with support and advice as part of the “Unite With Ukraine” campaign<sup>24</sup>.

In 2022, the UWC’s “Unite with Ukraine” raised over \$40 million for Ukraine’s defenders. Not only Ukrainians, but people from all over the world joined in the donations. For example, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney allocated \$5 million to the initiative<sup>25</sup>. In 2023, the total amount of military aid transferred by the UWC initiative was \$1,186,287,288<sup>26</sup>. From February 2022 to October 2024, the UWC’s “Unite with Ukraine” initiative to assist the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other Ukrainian structures and security forces raised over \$59.5

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<sup>21</sup> Там само. С. 7. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Кампанія «Птахи Свободи 2.0» Світового Конгресу Українців зібрала понад \$390,000 на підтримку Збройних Сил України. 17.01.2025. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/kampaniia-ptahy-svobody-2-0-svitovoho-konhresu-ukrayinciv-zibrala-ponad-390000-na-pidtrymku-zbroinykh-sil-ukrayoni/>

<sup>23</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 7, 10. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> СКУ залучив видатних генералів світу до ініціативи #UniteWithUkraine. 24.07.2022. URL: <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-uarazom/3535631-sku-zaluciv-vidatnih-generaliv-svitu-do-iniciativi-unitewithukraine.html>

<sup>25</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 10. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Там само. С. 19. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

million from donors from over 70 countries<sup>27</sup>. In December, the amount was already over 60 million<sup>28</sup>.

To effectively raise funds for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the UWC has launched an updated website. On it, anyone who wants to help can buy virtual first aid kits and helmets for the Ukrainian defenders<sup>29</sup>. In 2023, Ukrainians and those who supported them in the fight against the Russian aggressor donated \$630,000 through the “Unite with Ukraine” platform. These funds were used to purchase 30 powerful drones for 15 units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces<sup>30</sup>.

In 2024, the UWC also deepened its cooperation with the Ukrainian volunteer community. The UWC’s “Unite with Ukraine” initiative, together with the Prytula Foundation, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, conducted a nine-day tour of the eastern regions of Canada and the United States raising almost \$1.2 million. The Myhal Family Foundation alone donated \$740,000. With the funds collected on all platforms and received from donors, 26 Land Rover Snatch armored vehicles were purchased and delivered to the military of the State Special Transport Service of Ukraine for Mine Clearance<sup>31</sup>. In partnership with Veteran Hub, the UWC supported the Mobile Office program for the adaptation and reintegration of veterans, and participated in public discussions such as the Community Leaders Forum: United for Victory, which brought together volunteers and activists from all over Ukraine<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 6. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> Світовий Конгрес Українців передав ГУР допомогу на 1,22 мільйона доларів для порятунку життів на фронті. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/svitoviy-kongres-ukrajinciv-peredav-hur-dopomohu-na-122-miliona-dolariv-dlia-poriatunku-zhyttiv-na-fronti/>

<sup>29</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 11. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> Unite with Ukraine. URL: <https://unitewithukraine.com/>

<sup>31</sup> Світовий конгрес українців і Фонд Притули передали 26 броньованих машин для розмінування України. 16.12.2024. URL: <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events-rozminuvannya-ukrajini-svitoviy-kongres-ukrajinciv-i-fond-prituli-kupili-26-brone-mashin-land-rover-50474729.html>

<sup>32</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 5. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)



To identify urgent humanitarian and military needs, coordinate key priorities and cooperation plans, the UWC leadership and representatives made regular visits to Ukraine, during which they met with the country's authorities, government officials, heads of ministries and public leaders, military personnel, volunteers, and citizens of Ukraine. The UWC Mission to Ukraine, headed by Andriy Shevchenko, contributes to strengthening cooperation between the UWC and the Ukrainian authorities, public institutions and Ukrainian society<sup>33</sup>. At the end of 2024, UWC President Paul M. Grod addressed the Ukrainian world community: “In August of this year, I was in the frontline territories in the Donetsk and Kharkiv regions, I saw with my own eyes the traces of russian inhuman cruelty, Ukrainian cities burned to ashes, and mass graves. There I saw the courage, heroism, and great devotion of Ukrainian defenders. Therefore, we have no right to get tired, we have no right to take a break from the main common cause – the struggle for the victory of Ukraine...”<sup>34</sup>.

## **2. Support and advocacy of Ukraine's interests in the world**

The UWC plays an important role in supporting and defending Ukraine's interests in the world. Its activities are aimed at advocating Ukraine's positions on the international stage in its fight against russian aggression. As UWC President Paul Grod notes: “the responsibility of global Ukrainians is to ensure this strong support from civil society and politics. We are focused on ensuring that partners should not give up and continue to support us by increasing assistance”<sup>35</sup>.

On the first anniversary of russia's attack on Ukraine, the UWC initiated a global campaign “#365days of russia's full-scale invasion and 9 years of war against Ukraine. Let's unite with Ukraine on February 24!” Ukrainian communities, public organizations, diplomats, public figures, and heads of institutions responded to the UWC's call. In February 2023, Ukrainians from 62 countries in over

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<sup>33</sup> Там само.

<sup>34</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 5. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Павло Грод, Президент Світового Конгресу Українців. Ведемо кілька адвокаційних кампаній для збільшення військової допомоги Україні. 08.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-diaspora/3784205-pavlo-grod-prezident-svitovogo-kongresu-ukrainciv.html>

350 cities united in a powerful wave of support for Ukraine<sup>36</sup>. Ukrainians and their friends of different nationalities held mass peaceful demonstrations, marches and processions, and prayer events in those countries. People all over the world came out to demonstrate solidarity with the Ukrainian people fighting the aggressor, with Ukrainian symbols, candles, multimeter flags, while the buildings were illuminated in yellow and blue colors<sup>37</sup>. In total, the UWC registered almost 500 different events around the world at that time<sup>38</sup>.

In March 2023, the UWC initiated an international advocacy campaign called “Boycott Russian Sport”. Its goal was to prevent the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from preventing athletes from the aggressor country and its satellite from participating in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. The UWC sent letters and petitions on this issue to National Olympic Committees and Federations of individual sports, Ministries of Sports in various countries, and the International Olympic Committee. It expressed its position in meetings with politicians and representatives of the media. The letter, signed by then UWC First Vice President Stefan Romaniv and UWC World Sports Commission Chair Renata Roman, stated, in particular, that “the decision to allow russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris – even under a neutral flag – will allow them to promote russian prestige and achievements, and spread russian disinformation and propaganda”<sup>39</sup>.

The UWC became Ukraine’s partner in the “The Will to Win” project, initiated by the Office of the President of Ukraine together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Olympic Committee. It was aimed at supporting Ukrainian athletes at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and drawing the attention of the international

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<sup>36</sup> СКУ в 2023: пригадаємо рік, що минає. 29.12.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-v-2023-pryhaduyemo-rik-shcho-mynaye/>

<sup>37</sup> СКУ єднає на акції українців з понад 45 країн і 300 міст світу. 24.02.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/365-dniv-u-vijnishho-triva%d1%94-9-ro-kiv-yak-doluchitsiya-do-akczij>

<sup>38</sup> Світова акція 24 лютого: лідери громад про успіхи та виклики. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/svitovaakczia-24-lutoho-lidery-hromad-pro-uspikhy-ta-vyklyky/>

<sup>39</sup> СКУ в 2023: пригадаємо рік, що минає. 29.12.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-v-2023-pryhaduyemo-rik-shcho-mynaye/>

community to Russia's crimes against Ukrainian sports<sup>40</sup>. Renata Roman emphasized that "For the Ukrainian World Congress, supporting Ukrainian athletes and raising the image of Ukraine on world platforms is another way to show our unity and solidarity with Ukraine"<sup>41</sup>. In the capital of France, the Association of Ukrainians in France organized and held a peaceful march on July 13, 2024 in memory of 488 Ukrainian athletes who died during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The event was attended by over a thousand people, the Ukrainians were supported by the French, Georgians, Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, and representatives of the Syrian and Iranian pro-Western opposition. The participants wore T-shirts with the names of the deceased Ukrainian athletes<sup>42</sup>.

In order to draw the world's attention to the Russian aggression and prevent a repeat of the history when the Olympics were not held during World War II, the UWC team created a video with athletes from 5 countries participating. It was shown during the Olympics in Paris in the Ukrainian center Volia Space, and the UWC invited Ivanna Sakhno – the star of the Star Wars series, to the virtual campaign. In support of Ukrainian athletes, Ivanna published a video on her Instagram page, which gained 233 thousand views. The UWC virtual campaign was supported by the United24 and Saint Javelin platforms. In total, the campaign reached over 1 million users of social networks, and was covered by numerous world media outlets<sup>43</sup>.

In support of Ukraine and the heroic resistance of Ukrainians, on January 24, 2024, the UWC launched a global campaign under the slogan "Stand With Ukraine" in partnership with the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Ukrainian embassies in various countries, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the Mejlis of

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<sup>40</sup> У Києві стартувала кампанія «The Will to Win». 17.07.2024. URL: [https://mms.gov.ua/news/u-kyievi-startuvala-kampaniia-the-will-to-win?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://mms.gov.ua/news/u-kyievi-startuvala-kampaniia-the-will-to-win?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>41</sup> СКУ та Українсько-Американська Координаційна Рада підтримали українських атлетів напередодні Олімпіади 2024. 27.06.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainian-worldcongress.org/ua/sku-ta-ukrayinsko-amerykanska-koordynaciina-rada-pidtrymaly-ukrayinskykh-atletiv-naperedodni-olimpiady-2024/>

<sup>42</sup> Об'єднання Українців Франції провело мирний марш у пам'ять про 488 українських атлетів. 14.07.2024. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/72429-/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/72429-/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>43</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 18. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

the Crimean Tatar People, human rights organizations, politicians and public figures from the countries where Ukrainians reside<sup>44</sup>. This action refuted the narratives of russian propaganda about the decline of support for Ukraine in the world. It was joined by a record number of participants. It was taken up by 700 cities in 69 countries, in Europe and North America, in the UAE, India, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, it took place on all continents including Antarctica<sup>45</sup>. The UWC, together with Ukrainska Pravda, created an interactive world map that showed the participants of the action the scale of world solidarity with Ukraine in the fight against the aggressor and the unity of all Ukrainians<sup>46</sup>. The UWC also developed a poster for support events, banners for social media, a press release, a message box, and analytical materials. Calls to participate in solidarity actions with Ukraine were also distributed through local media<sup>47</sup>. The UWC's global advocacy campaign was aimed at supporting Ukraine and its key priorities: the transfer of frozen russian assets to Ukraine, the provision of more weapons to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and the return of Ukrainian children deported by russia<sup>48</sup>. They exposed the crimes of the aggressor in Ukraine and the russian policy in the occupied territories showing the true goals of our state in the war, the situation on the battlefield, and emphasized the international dimension of russian aggression<sup>49</sup>. UWC President Paul Grod also emphasized that an important task of the global action was to convey the right messages to

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<sup>44</sup> Stand With Ukraine: Світовий Конгрес Українців розпочинає всесвітню кампанію до 24 лютого. 24.01.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/stand-with-ukrainesvitovyi-konhres-ukrayinciv-rozpochynaye-vsесvitnyu-kampaniyu-do-24-liutoho/>

<sup>45</sup> Рекордна світова акція до 24 лютого: понад 1000 подій у 69 країнах. 26.02.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/rekordnasvitova-akcziya-do-24-lyuto-go-ponad-1000-podij-u-69-kra%dl%97nah/>

<sup>46</sup> Долучайтесь до світової акції! Join the Global Rally! 24.02.2024. URL: <https://standwithukraineworld.ukrainianworldcongress.org>

<sup>47</sup> Stand With Ukraine: Світовий Конгрес Українців розпочинає всесвітню кампанію до 24 лютого. 24.01.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/stand-with-ukrainesvitovyi-konhres-ukrayinciv-rozpochynaye-vsесvitnyu-kampaniyu-do-24-liutoho/>

<sup>48</sup> Stand With Ukraine: СКУ підготував головні тези для акцій та заходів. 24.02.2025. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/standwithukrainesku-pidhotuvav-ho-lovni-tezy-dlia-akcii-ta-zahodiv/>

<sup>49</sup> Тези до акції 24 лютого 2024 року. 16.02.2024. URL: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nUUOyAu6BH4yyskAEs32T5cWdJT7V/edit>

citizens of different countries of the world, so the appeals at the events took into account the specifics of the countries in which they took place: “For example, the governments of the Middle East are actively involved in the release of prisoners and children, and these are key messages for these countries. Here we will not call for giving weapons to Ukraine, but we will call for helping to release our political prisoners and our children. In Washington, we will call for arming Ukraine, providing an aid package. In Europe, we will call for strengthening the Alliance and Ukraine, in Poland, we will call for stopping the blockade of the border, because this is also a great threat to Ukraine”<sup>50</sup>. In letters of appeal from Ukrainian communities and organizations around the world to 130 governments of the countries in which they reside, the demands were substantiated: “to agree on the necessary legal measures and create means to transfer frozen russian assets to Ukraine, to hold russia accountable for crimes committed in Ukraine”<sup>51</sup>.

As part of the UWC campaign “Stand With Ukraine” to mark the second anniversary of russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the war, a record number of actions were held – 1,023. These included street rallies, marches, flash mobs, film screenings, photo exhibitions, prayer events, raising flags, illuminating buildings with Ukrainian colors, and campaigns on social media. The actions of Ukrainians abroad were supported by many citizens of the countries where they were organized, but, according to the leaders of Ukrainian communities abroad, the participation of local authorities in them was insufficient. Another challenge was that street actions were banned in some countries, so Ukrainians gathered on the territory of consulates and embassies of Ukraine<sup>52</sup>.

On January 11, 2025, to mark the third year of russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine, the UWC announced a global advocacy campaign, “Stand with Ukraine 2025”. As the UWC reported: “The goal of the campaign is to remind the world of the third year of full-

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<sup>50</sup> Президент СКУ: важливо донести правильні меседжі під час акцій 24 лютого. 22.02.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/-ua/prezydent-sku-vazhlyvo-donesty-pravylni-mesedzhi-pid-chas-akcii-24-liutoho/>

<sup>51</sup> Тези до акції 24 лютого 2024 року. 16.02.2024. URL: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nUUOyAu6BH4yyoSskAEs32T5cwdJT7V/edit>

<sup>52</sup> Світова акція 24 лютого: лідери громад про успіхи та виклики. 04.03.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/svitovaakcziaa-24-lutoho-lidery-hromad-pro-uspikhy-ta-vyklyky/>

scale war and the consequences of the russian invasion for Ukraine and the world, and to call on democratic governments to mobilize support for Ukraine, increasing pressure on russia to end the war and restore Ukraine's territorial integrity"<sup>53</sup>. The global campaign is to be supported by the International Center For Ukraine Victory (ICUV) and the Communities Army of Ukraine (CAU).

As part of the campaign, the UWC strongly called on the world community to deploy international peacekeeping forces to Ukraine to guarantee its security, provide Ukraine with modern air defense systems, military equipment and ammunition, lethal and non-lethal assistance to fight the aggressor, confiscate frozen russian assets, introduce new sanctions against key russian individuals and sectors of the russian economy, introduce a war tax (WAR TAX) on russian LNG in the EU, and then a complete embargo on russian fossil fuels, condemn the russian federation for violating the rights of prisoners of war, immediately return illegally deported Ukrainian children, recognize the russian federation's actions against Ukraine as genocide of the Ukrainian people, recognize russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and investigate the russian federation's war crimes, and exclude russia from international organizations and institutions<sup>54</sup>.

On February 23 and 24, 2025, as in previous years, actions, rallies, marches, flash mobs, prayer events, a minute of silence, lighting of buildings, lectures, exhibitions, film screenings, etc. was held around the world. A new event is the Global Alarm action, when "on February 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. local time, Ukrainian communities around the world turned on the siren – an air raid siren, as a reminder to the world of the continuation of the war and a call to action". Volodymyr Kohutyak, Chairman of the UWC Advocacy Committee, noted that this action would be "a symbolic way to remind the world that the war continues, and everyone can contribute to victory, in the fight for peace and justice. Together we will show solidarity with Ukraine and call for decisive action"<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> Stand with Ukraine 2025: СКУ оголошує глобальну кампанію до третього року повномасштабної війни. 31.01.2025. URL. <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.-org/ua/stand-with-ukraine-2025-sku-oholoshuie-hlobalnu-kampaniiu-do-tretoho-roku-povnomashtabnoi-viiny/>

<sup>54</sup> Там само.

<sup>55</sup> Там само.

The main message of the UWC's advocacy campaigns is that "Today, Ukraine is buying time for the democratic world to unite and grow stronger. But this time is not infinite. Democracies must finally go on the offensive. Ukraine and the entire democratic world can only either win together, or give in and lose together"<sup>56</sup>.

The UWC actively lobbies on the international stage for Ukraine's accession to NATO and the EU (#UAtoEU, #UAinNATO). Its activities in this direction are coordinated with the Ukrainian authorities, in particular with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the President and other state institutions. To facilitate the process of the country's accession to the European Union and NATO, the UWC leadership holds important high-level meetings with European leaders, influential political and public leaders, diplomats, international partners, and politicians. In particular, in 2023, the UWC President made working visits to Hungary, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Romania, Italy, France, Moldova, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Ukraine<sup>57</sup>. In 2024, he made trips to Southern, Western and Eastern Europe as well as to South America, on several occasions accompanied by members of the UWC Leadership. The UWC leadership participated in conferences, summits, and forums advocating the interests of Ukrainians regarding European integration and NATO accession<sup>58</sup>.

The NATO Summit in Vilnius, which took place on July 11–12, 2023, was accompanied by unprecedented support from representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora from many countries around the world, who took to the streets of their cities to demonstrate solidarity with Ukraine on its path to the Alliance. The slogan of the UWC's open-ended advocacy campaign "#UkraineInNATO" was the slogan – "Make NATO Stronger – Invite Ukraine"<sup>59</sup>. The campaign began on the eve of the 75th anniversary NATO Summit held in Washington from June

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<sup>56</sup> Тези до акції СКУ 24 лютого 2025 року. 16.02.2025. URL: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B6Jjz-DWA-IsUAaj3YKpBJYiF5IavYDN/edit>

<sup>57</sup> СКУ дякує українським громадам за підтримку України на шляху до НАТО. 31.07.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-diakuye-ukrainskym-hromadam-za-pidtrymku-ukrayiny-na-shliahu-do-nato>

<sup>58</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 11–13. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> Ukrainian World Congress announces #UkraineInNATO global advocacy campaign. 25.06.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ukrainian-world-congress-announces-ukraineinnato-global-advocacy-campaign/>

9 to 11, 2024. Ukrainian communities in 32 NATO member states joined the action. The Ukrainian diaspora held meetings with influential political and public leaders of the countries of their residence, street actions and rallies in support of Ukraine's accession to the Alliance. The UWC delegation stayed in Washington from July 8 to 12 participating in the NATO Public Forum, which was held alongside with the Summit, and joined Ukrainian representatives in many official events within the framework of the event<sup>60</sup>. The issue of obtaining permission for Ukraine to use long-range weapons to strike targets on the territory of the aggressor and the importance of further global support for Ukraine was raised by UWC President Paul Grod on the sidelines of the Fourth Summit of the International Crimean Platform in September 2024<sup>61</sup>.

On October 1, 2024, on the Day of Defenders of Ukraine, the UWC called on NATO to invite Ukraine to begin accession negotiations. UWC President Paul Grod emphasized that “Such a strategically important decision not only paves the way for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, but also strengthens the Alliance’s defense capabilities and confirms its commitment to countering russian imperialism. To stop the russian threat, we must act boldly and decisively!”<sup>62</sup>. The current position of the UWC, which is actively conveyed to the world community, is that “Against the backdrop of increased coordination and deepening cooperation between moscow and its authoritarian allies, NATO countries continue to hesitate on the issue of Ukraine's membership in this defense alliance. The indecision of NATO countries and their unwillingness to take further steps in the issue of Ukraine's integration is perceived by russia and its authoritarian partners exclusively as their weakness and an “invitation” to new aggressive actions”<sup>63</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup> Зупиніть російський терор – запросіть Україну до НАТО. 09.07.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/zupynit-rosiiskiyi-teror-zaprosit-ukrayinu-do-nato/>

<sup>61</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 12. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> У День захисників та захисниць СКУ закликає НАТО запросити Україну до блоку. 01.10.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ukrainian-world-congress-announces-ukraineinnato-global-advocacy->

<sup>63</sup> Тези до акції СКУ 24 лютого 2025 року. 16.02.2025. URL: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B6Jjz-DWA-lsUAaj3YKpBJYiF5lavYDN/edit>



In May 2024, the UWC launched a global advocacy campaign in support of Ukraine during the Peace Summit in Switzerland. During the Summit (June 15–16, 2024), the UWC organized a special event extending invitations to the leaders of the participating countries and members of government delegations and together with the Ukrainian Society in Switzerland held the “Ukrainian Forum”. The latter resulted in the signing of the “Declaration on a Comprehensive, Just and Sustainable Peace for Ukraine” by about 200 public organizations and political figures<sup>64</sup>. The world also celebrated the 33rd anniversary of Ukraine's Independence. The UWC recorded 265 actions organized by Ukrainians in 32 countries<sup>65</sup>.

The UWC's activities and strategies for bringing victory and rebuilding Ukraine closer were actively discussed at the UWC Summit in Bucharest, which was held on April 12-15, 2024 in the Romanian Parliament. It brought together 200 leaders and representatives of Ukrainian communities from 55 countries representing 5 continents of the world<sup>66</sup>. Each UWC advocacy campaign is accompanied by information support on the UWC website, social networks, and digests. Daily updates on news from the fronts and publications commemorating fallen defenders are posted in the “Chronicles of Victory” section<sup>67</sup>. Through banners, videos, key theses and other means, the UWC convinces the world community to support Ukraine, join the actions of Ukrainians abroad, and spread the truth about russian crimes. Evidence of the successful information support of the UWC for Ukraine in the conditions of a major war was the fact that during the campaign for Ukraine's accession to NATO, pro-russian hackers created a copy of the English-language version of the UWC website, where they spread false information under the guise of materials for the NATO Summit intended for Ukrainian communities around the world. The security of the site was restored in the coming hours, and readers were notified of the threat<sup>68</sup>.

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<sup>64</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 11. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>65</sup> Там само. С. 19. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> Там само. С. 23. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> Там само. С. 43. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>68</sup> Там само. С. 44. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

### **3. Information campaign on the Holodomor-genocide as a means of struggle**

The use of historical memory as a tool of struggle helps Ukraine not only in information, but also in diplomatic, legal and psychological confrontation with Russia. Due to the war, mass events in Kyiv were not held in 2022, the memory of the victims of the Holodomor being honored at the government level and through diplomatic and information initiatives. In 2022, the UWC's global information campaign for the anniversary of the Holodomor was held under the slogan “We Remember! We Unite! We Will Win!”<sup>69</sup>. During November of that year, Ukrainians held memorial services in big cities around the world lighting candles in memory of the victims of the Holodomor genocide. With this action, the UWC wanted to show people around the world that Russia continues to threaten world food security and commit genocide against the Ukrainian people. It became another appeal to the governments of countries that have not yet recognized the Holodomor as genocide to do so as soon as possible<sup>70</sup>. The UWC organized a virtual presentation of “Names on the Walls”. This documentary is a requiem for the fallen residents of the village of Yahidne in the Chernihiv region, who survived 28 days of Russian occupation. This village experienced a second famine organized by the Russians<sup>71</sup>.

To mark the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932–1933 in Soviet Ukraine, the UWC initiated the educational campaign “Holodomor-90”, which united the Ukrainian community around the world. In the context of a full-scale war with Russia, this action took on special significance, since Russian aggression is a direct continuation of the policy of extermination of the Ukrainian people, which began in the Soviet times. Together with the UWC, Ukrainians abroad organized and held numerous events dedicated to highlighting Soviet terror and famine, and called on the governments of their countries to condemn the Russian aggression against Ukraine as genocide of the Ukrainian people.

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<sup>69</sup> Основне гасло: Пам'ятаємо! Єднаємося! Переможемо! 24.11.2023. URL: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10VArkQyc1UgrihOpIA\\_o2W25Jhrihz3axSgSZI9BeHk/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10VArkQyc1UgrihOpIA_o2W25Jhrihz3axSgSZI9BeHk/edit?tab=t.0)

<sup>70</sup> Там само.

<sup>71</sup> Імена на стінах. 24.11.2024. URL: <https://hdn.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua-%d0%b3%d0%be%d0%bb%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b0/>

The UWC-initiated virtual campaign «Light a candle – make a vow» (the words of the vow: “I light a candle to preserve memory. I believe in the future of Ukraine helped unite the efforts of Ukrainians in preserving the truth about the Holodomor genocide, «to tell the world about the past, present and future of Ukraine”. “One candle will light up a dark room – many candles can light up the world”, the campaign spokesman aptly noted<sup>72</sup>. The launch of the international campaign “#Holodo-mor90” on social media attracted the attention of millions of people around the world.

On November 25, 2023, the UWC leadership joined the ceremonial events commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor-genocide at the highest state level in Ukraine. Together with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, government officials, clergy and diplomats, UWC representatives took part in laying flowers and lighting candles near the National Museum of the Holodomor-genocide, as well as in the solemn session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine<sup>73</sup>. Events as part of the campaign took place in different countries throughout the year. On July 10, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and First Lady Olena Zelenska, together with representatives of the UWC and the Ukrainian community in the United States, laid flowers at the monument to the victims of the Holodomor in Washington. The event became an important symbolic act of recognition of historical truth and a reminder of the continuing russian crimes against Ukraine<sup>74</sup>.

The UWC is actively working to ensure that as many states as possible officially recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide<sup>75</sup>. In particular, thanks to the active lobbying of the Ukrainian diaspora, in 2022 – 2023, more than 10 countries recognized the Holodomor as genocide, including Germany, France, Ireland, Iceland, Belgium, and the European Parliament, and hearings were held in the parliaments of

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<sup>72</sup> Запаліть свічку – складіть обітницю. Долучайтесь до віртуальної кампанії СКУ Holodomor-90. 02.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/zapalit-svichku-skladit-obitnyciu-doluchaitesia-do-virtualnoyi-kampanii-sku-holodomor-90/>

<sup>73</sup> СКУ в 2023: пригадуємо рік, що минає. 29.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-v-2023-pryhaduyemo-rik-shcho-mynaye/>

<sup>74</sup> До перемоги разом з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 41. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>75</sup> СКУ до роковин Голодомору закликає нагадати світові про злочини режимів Сталіна і Путіна. 12.11.2024. URL: [https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-sku-holodomor/33198373.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-sku-holodomor/33198373.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)



Holodomor-genocide of 1932–1933. This initiative was aimed at honoring the memory of the victims of the Holodomor and drawing attention of the international community to Russia's current aggression against Ukraine, which is a continuation of genocidal policies<sup>79</sup>. At the same time, November 19 marked 1,000 days since the start of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, so the main message to the world community within the campaign was that these historical events are linked by the cruelty and ruthlessness of the aggressor, who seeks to destroy the Ukrainian people<sup>80</sup>.

Events dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holodomor included: rallies, marches, flash mobs, interfaith prayers and lighting of memorial candles, scientific and educational meetings and conferences. Ukrainian communities and friends of Ukraine appealed to the governments of their respective countries with a demand to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide of the Ukrainian people and to condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation as genocide against Ukrainians. The UWC's information materials for this campaign, in particular, emphasize: “As in 1932–1933, so now Russia is trying to break the will of Ukrainians to resist, throwing its entire terrorist arsenal against Ukraine. Stalin in the 20th century and Putin in the 21st century made a choice in favor of genocides because other methods of subjugating the Ukrainian people did not work. Stalin resorted to total confiscation of food, blockades, and increased terror to organize genocide. Putin used a full-scale military invasion. “After him, as components of a genocidal policy, terror, mass murders, and deliberate attacks on shelters began”<sup>81</sup>. The truth about the Holodomor and modern aggression was actively spread through social networks; slogans and hashtags were used, and the media covered the events.

#### **4. UWC Support for Ukraine's Economic Development in the Face of a Large-scale War**

The UWC plays an important role in supporting Ukraine's economy by mobilizing the Ukrainian diaspora, international partners, and the

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<sup>79</sup> СКУ анонсує глобальну адвокаційну кампанію до роковин Голодомору-геноциду. 14.11.2024. URL: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/ua/sku-anonsuie-hlobalnu-advokaciinu-kampaniiu-do-rokovyn-holodomoru-henocydu/>

<sup>80</sup> Там само.

<sup>81</sup> Тези до 91-х роковин Голодомору-геноциду 1932–1933 pp. 11.11.2024. URL: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1-jHRkPFAI60IYSGDYqZF8Y26hzfHXX>

business communities. This support becomes even more significant in the context of war and post-war reconstruction. The UWC Committee on Economic Development and Investment in Ukraine (EDIU) provided assistance to Ukrainian entrepreneurs who were forced to leave the country because of the war. The UWC supports initiatives to develop small and medium-sized businesses by providing expert support to Ukrainian entrepreneurs<sup>82</sup>.

The UWC actively works with governments and international financial institutions to attract loans, grants and financial assistance for Ukraine. In late 2023, the UWC supported the holding of the Rebuild Ukraine business conference, dedicated to attracting investment in Ukraine and establishing close contacts between Canadian and Ukrainian businesses, and also participated in the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Germany<sup>83</sup>. As UWC President Paul Grod noted: “Reconstruction conferences are regularly held around the world, which our constituent parts of the organization – mainly chambers of commerce – organize together with the Ukrainian government, business and associations”<sup>84</sup>.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is accompanied by systematic attacks on its energy infrastructure. Their goal is to leave millions of Ukrainians without electricity, heat and water, create a humanitarian crisis and undermine the economy. Stable energy supply is also necessary for the operation of defense enterprises and the production of weapons. To help Ukraine, the UWC initiated the Energize Ukraine platform aimed at attracting assistance and collecting equipment to restore the Ukrainian energy sector. It was presented at many economic forums and conferences, which made it possible to draw the attention of

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<sup>82</sup> Підтримка України у найважчі часи. Річний звіт Світового Конгресу Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 17. URL: [https://www.ukrainian-world-congress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copyhttps://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.ukrainian-world-congress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copyhttps://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/uafin-copy-1_compressed.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 20. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

<sup>84</sup> Павло Грод, президент Світового конгресу українців. Ведемо кілька адвокаційних кампаній для збільшення військової допомоги Україні. 08.11.2023. URL: <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-diaspora/3784205-pavlo-grod-prezident-svitovogo-kongresu-ukrainciv.html>

donors and specialists to this problem<sup>85</sup>. In January 2023, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the UWC and the National Energy Company “Ukrenergo”<sup>86</sup>. In July 2023, the UWC concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine. It was agreed “on joint efforts to find and supply energy equipment to replace damaged ones, attract funding from public and private sources to support and restore the energy grid, as well as coordinate actions during the assessment of damage to energy infrastructure and the development of a roadmap for its restoration”<sup>87</sup>.

Economic support to the UWC of Ukraine is implemented in cooperation with governments and corporations. Thus, in 2023, the Government of Canada and Power Grid Canada, together with the UWC, were able to provide 2,500 units of equipment for power grids in Ukraine<sup>88</sup>. The UWC also supports initiatives aimed at increasing energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources in Ukraine. This includes promoting the introduction of modern technologies and exchanging experience with international experts to ensure the sustainability and independence of the Ukrainian energy system. By the end of 2024, thanks to the UWC, 1,500 solar panels, 100 units of high-voltage equipment from the Japanese corporation Hitachi, 22 high-voltage transformers, 15 industrial circuit breakers, 3 Hydro Quebec inserts, 7 specialized trucks for Ukrenergo, and 3 surge arresters were transferred to Ukraine. In addition, hybrid solar systems were installed at four schools in Kyiv and Chernihiv regions that suffered the most from russian shelling<sup>89</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

During the large-scale stage of the russian-Ukrainian war, the global Ukrainian community united to support and assist Ukraine in its

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<sup>85</sup> В єдності наша сила. Світовий Конгрес Українців. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 21. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1.pdf)

<sup>86</sup> Там само.

<sup>87</sup> В єдності наша сила. Світовий Конгрес Українців.. Київ-Брюссель-Торонто-Нью-Йорк. 2022. С. 21. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1.pdf)

<sup>88</sup> Там само. С. 22. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar\\_2023\\_2024-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ar_2023_2024-1.pdf)

<sup>89</sup> До перемоги з Україною. Світовий Конгрес Українців. 2024. С. 20. URL: [https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit\\_kinecz24f3-1.pdf](https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/zvit_kinecz24f3-1.pdf)

fight against the aggressor. One of the main coordinators of this global support was the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC). As of October 2024, its network, thanks to new supporting organizations and communities, communities and active groups of Ukrainians, had grown to 83 countries around the world.

The UWC acts as an important bridge between the Ukrainian army and the international community providing the necessary military assistance to defend Ukraine. The organization initiates large-scale campaigns, such as “Unite with Ukraine”, which raise funds for the purchase of vital means to resist the aggressor. The funds are used to purchase important high-quality tactical medical equipment, armored vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, reconnaissance systems and other important equipment and supplies to support the defenders of Ukraine. Thanks to the global network of volunteers and partners, the organization organizes the rapid and efficient delivery of the necessary supplies to Ukraine.

Along with the increase in military support, the UWC is actively working to lobby for Ukraine's interests in the world. The UWC's large-scale global advocacy campaigns help mobilize not only political but also public support for Ukraine, which contributes to further coordination of assistance from different parts of the world, support for Ukraine's accession to NATO and the EU. The organization publishes news and analytical materials and it increases the awareness of the world community about the situation in Ukraine. The UWC pays significant attention to promoting the topic of the Holodomor-genocide, since understanding this tragedy is important for the world community to understand the reasons why Russia is once again trying to destroy the Ukrainian nation. The campaign calls on Ukrainians around the world and friends of Ukraine to actively participate in events aimed at honoring the memory of the victims of the Holodomor-genocide and opposing modern aggression. The UWC also actively supports the economic development of Ukraine, even in the difficult conditions of a large-scale war, implementing a number of strategic initiatives, in particular, the “Energize Ukraine” initiative, and helps find financial resources for the implementation of projects to modernize infrastructure, develop technologies, and the energy sector of Ukraine.

The international solidarity of all Ukrainians and their friends under the auspices of the UWC in the fight against Russian aggression has significantly strengthened Ukraine's position in the international arena.



Ukraine received financial resources and moral support, which is important not only for victory but also for its restoration after the end of the war.

### **ABSTRACT**

The conducted research proves that the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is an important organizational center of the Ukrainian diaspora in more than 80 countries of the world. It unites Ukrainians abroad around a common goal – to support the Motherland in its fight against the russian aggressor. The organization initiates large-scale campaigns, such as “Unite with Ukraine”, thanks to which funds are raised for the purchase and delivery of vital military equipment, technology, and medical supplies. Alongside with the increase in military assistance, the UWC conducts active advocacy work to support Ukraine globally, in particular, regarding its intentions to integrate into European Union and accession to NATO. The global actions of the UWC in support of Ukraine contribute to the strengthening of political and economic pressure on russia, help to attract financial and military assistance, and also draw attention of the world community to the Ukraine’s heroic struggle.

The UWC has successfully conducted information campaigns aimed at commemorating the victims of the Holodomor and drawing the attention of the international community to the current russian aggression against Ukraine. The study shows that such initiatives have contributed to raising the international community’s awareness of historical and current crimes against the Ukrainian people, increased diplomatic pressure on russia and aid to Ukraine. The study found that the UWC’s economic support for Ukraine is aimed at mobilizing financial, material, and technological resources to restore and strengthen the Ukrainian economy in the context of war. It is concluded that the international solidarity of all Ukrainians and their friends under the auspices of the UWC in the fight against russian aggression has significantly strengthened Ukraine’s position in the international arena, provided it with resource and moral support, which is important not only for victory but also for its restoration after the end of the war.

## АНОТАЦІЯ

Проведене дослідження довело, що Світовий Конгрес Українців (СКУ) є важливим організаційним центром української діаспори у понад 80-ти країнах світу. Він об'єднує українців за кордоном навколо спільної мети – підтримки Батьківщини у її боротьбі проти російського агресора. Організація ініціює масштабні кампанії, як-от «Unite with Ukraine», завдяки яким збираються кошти для закупівлі та доставки в Україну життєво необхідного військового спорядження, техніки, медичних засобів. Одночасно зі збільшенням військової допомоги, СКУ веде активну адвокаційну роботу для підтримки України у світі, зокрема, щодо її євроінтеграційних намірів та вступу до НАТО. Глобальні акції СКУ на підтримку України сприяють посиленню політичного, економічного тиску на росію, допомагають залучати фінансову та військову допомогу, а також привертають увагу до української боротьби світової спільноти.

СКУ успішно проводить інформаційні кампанії, спрямовані на вшанування пам'яті жертв Голодомору та привернення уваги міжнародної спільноти до сучасної російської агресії проти України. У дослідженні показано, що такі ініціативи сприяли підвищенню обізнаності міжнародної спільноти про історичні та сучасні злочини проти українського народу, посилили дипломатичний тиск на росію та допомогу Україні. У дослідженні з'ясовано, що економічна підтримка СКУ України спрямована на мобілізацію фінансових, матеріальних та технологічних ресурсів для відновлення та зміцнення української економіки в умовах війни.

Підсумовано, що міжнародна солідарність усіх українців та їх друзів під егідою СКУ в боротьбі з російською агресією значно зміцнила позиції України на міжнародній арені, надала їй ресурсну та моральну підтримку, що важливо не лише для перемоги, але й для відновлення її після завершення війни.

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