

ВИПУСК № 11

КВІТЕНЬ-ЧЕРВЕНЬ
2026

THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL CYPRUS

UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN FUTURE: TO INTEGRATION

CYPRUS TO UKRAINE VIA CHISINAU

THE POWER OF THE UKRAINIAN VOICE

UAExperts

"NOT EVERY GOODBYE
IS AN ENDING..."

*Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Ambassador of Ukraine
to the Republic of Cyprus*



CY20
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STRENGTH WITH UNITY

THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS IS HANDING OVER
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION TO IRELAND



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Соціально-правовий дискурс

«UA Experts: Соціально-правовий дискурс»

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Representation of the Ombudsman of Ukraine in Cyprus

The Representation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Commissioner for Human Rights has begun operations in the Republic of Cyprus, which will operate during the period of martial law to promptly protect the interests of forcibly displaced Ukrainian citizens.



By the relevant order of the Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets, Olena Andrews-Skalyodes was appointed as the Advisor to the Commissioner in Cyprus. She is a communications expert of the Ukrainian diplomatic mission, a member of the Ukrainian-Cypriot Friendship Society, and has been actively involved in volunteer activities in support of Ukrainian refugees since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

The foreign representations of the Office of the Commissioner operate on a non-profit basis and perform educational, support and communication functions. Specialists help Ukrainians correctly file applications to the Commissioner's Secretariat and monitor, collect and analyze information on violations of the rights and freedoms of our compatriots abroad.

In addition, the Ombudsman's representative is authorized to interact with diplomats, conduct legal proceedings, and directly cooperate with national human rights institutions and the ombudsman of the host country.

Today, such Representations of the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights operate in 37 countries around the world.

Supporting Regulatory Framework for Victims' Reparations

On April 24, 2026, Snizhana Kushch, Chief National Coordinator of the NGO UA Experts, participated in a strategic session to finalize the regulatory acts for implementing Ukraine's Law No. 4067. The meeting brought together the Ministry of Social Policy's working group, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Reparations and Compensations, and UN experts to resolve disputed provisions and balance efficiency, quality, and speed.

Using a collaborative "World Cafe" format, participants focused on critical operational details. These included criteria for selecting case managers, the composition of the evaluating Commission, the secretary's workload, and financial assistance coordination for victims who previously received interim reparations through the Global Survivors Fund (GSF).

During the session, Snizhana Kushch emphasized that strict compliance with the Law on Administrative Procedure is paramount when reviewing applications and granting victim status. The technical insights from this session will be used by the Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine to refine the regulations for an effective rollout.



First Meeting of the National Council for Child Rights Guarantees



On May 28, 2026, the Club of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine hosted the inaugural meeting of the National Council for Child Rights Guarantees. The team at the NGO UA Experts proudly served as a co-organizer of this high-profile event, working alongside the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Policy, and the Ministry of Social Policy. The strategic gathering was made possible through the robust support of UNICEF Ukraine, the German development bank KfW, the European Union, and the Coordinating Center for the Development of Family Upbringing and Child Care.

The milestone session commenced with opening addresses from prominent leaders, including Taras Kachka, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine; Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; and Munir Mammadzade, UNICEF Representative to Ukraine. The primary discussions centered on critical intersectoral challenges, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality social services for every child in Ukraine, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances. Participants also focused on identifying and dismantling systemic barriers that hinder family support at both national and municipal levels, while aligning the country's next steps with the implementation of the European Child Guarantee framework.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Tetiana Berezhna, Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Policy and Minister of Culture, who finalized the protocol decisions to initiate the Council's first practical field operations.

UA Experts at the Panair-2026 Festival

Andrii Yaromenko, an expert from the NGO UA Experts, recently participated in Panair, a major festival of Greek culture hosted at Kyiv's VDNG Polyana. The event served as a vital platform, bringing together Greek communities from across Ukraine, state officials, civil society leaders, and the diplomatic corps to strengthen intercultural dialogue and show solidarity during these challenging times.

The festival opened with deep spiritual significance, featuring a minute of silence for fallen defenders, the performance of national anthems, and a prayer led by Bishop Michael of Comana, the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Ukraine. High-level dignitaries delivered remarks in support of the community, including Pantelis Alexandros Dimitrakopoulos, the Ambassador of Greece to Ukraine, and Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's Human Rights Ombudsman, alongside prominent community leaders and honorary consuls.



The emotional core of the festival was the Avenue of Heroes, dedicated to fallen soldiers from Ukraine's Greek community, complemented by an official ceremony honoring active Ukrainian servicemen and women. Beyond showcasing traditions through cultural lectures and culinary records, Panair-2026 demonstrated a powerful consolidation of national minorities standing firmly with the state. UA Experts remains dedicated to supporting cultural diplomacy and extends its gratitude to the organizers and key partners, including Piraeus Bank and the Boumbouras Foundation, for this essential event.

The Great Contribution of Small Cyprus



An interview with Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Ambassador of Ukraine to Cyprus, on the island state's role in supporting Ukraine, the fight against Russian influence, and new Ukrainian diplomacy in the Mediterranean

Cyprus is an island nation with a population of less than a million people. At first glance, it is not associated with a venue for decisions critical to Ukraine.

However, the role of Cyprus is currently undergoing transformation. This year, it holds the presidency of the EU Council (until June 30) and influences the formation of the European agenda. Furthermore, in July 2025, Sergiy Nizhynskyi—a jurist, human rights advocate, and Candidate of Legal Sciences—assumed the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Cyprus.

H.E. Dr. Sergiy Nizhynskyi,
Ambassador of Ukraine to the
Republic of Cyprus

Over his 10 months in tenure, the Embassy has successfully re-established direct political dialogue between the two nations, orchestrated two presidential visits, and consolidated a coalition of ambassadors from 17 states in support of Ukraine. According to a ranking of the most active embassies compiled by Cypriot media, the Embassy of Ukraine secured seventh place. This is an interview with Sergiy Nizhynskyi for Forbes BrandVoice on how a small island is evolving into a significant diplomatic bridgehead for Ukraine.

The Geopolitical Map of the Island

When your appointment to Cyprus was announced, what was your initial reflection?

Irrespective of the destination of my appointment, I was fully cognizant that there would be considerable work. However, the deeper I immersed myself in the country's context, the more I discerned that Cyprus is substantially more complex than commonly perceived. It is not merely a resort or a financial center, but a nation that retains the memory of occupation, exercises its distinct voice within the European Union, and holds substantial potential for Ukraine.

Cyprus and Ukraine are nations with occupied territories. How does this parallel inform diplomatic communication?

When dialogue commences on this subject, the distance between our countries invariably diminishes. Nevertheless, our experiences are dissimilar. In Cyprus, the occupation has persisted for 51 years, and for the contemporary generation, the partitioned island has become an element of everyday existence.



President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides and Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Ambassador of Ukraine to Cyprus

Their border comprises checkpoints with turnstiles, whereas ours is characterized by minefields.

At first glance, the intensity of the affliction felt by Cypriots and Ukrainians may appear disparate, yet upon deeper examination, trauma is not mitigated by the passage of time.

According to various assessments, over 150,000 Russians currently reside in Cyprus. To what extent does such a large-scale presence impact public opinion on the island?

With millions allocated to propaganda and the promotion of the Russian language, schools, media, and cultural events, Russians have influenced public sentiment in the region for decades. Coupled with the largest complement of embassy personnel (approximately 300) among all diplomatic missions on the island, the magnitude of this influence becomes evident.

This was particularly palpable following the commencement of the full-scale conflict. During the initial months, individuals here in Cyprus were observed tearing down Ukrainian flags and engaging in the intimidation of entrepreneurs. Numerous citizens were apprehensive about openly endorsing Ukraine.

In February 2022, Ukrainians, predominantly women and children, began ar-



During that period, the Ukrainian side, operating with minimal fiscal resources and relying on sheer enthusiasm, endeavored to “prevail through ingenuity,” so to speak.

iving in Cyprus en masse, which catalyzed the advancement of all things Ukrainian on the island. Over the past year, we have observed an emergent trend of Ukrainians relocating to Cyprus from other European countries and the UAE. Consequently, this potential is burgeoning, yet it necessitates systematic guidance and reinforcement.

When I first engaged with the community last September, I perceived this potential alongside extant challenges and specific deficiencies. Presently, the discourse between the community, the business sector, and the Embassy, as the representative of the state, is attaining a new echelon. Owing to the systemic efforts of the Embassy, public support for Ukraine within Cypriot society is becoming increasingly discernible, and our community is acquiring greater assurance.

What measures is the Embassy undertaking at the economic level to counteract Russian influence?

A distinct vector is the business environment. For years, networks of partnerships and intermediary entities were constructed around sanctioned Russian individuals. Companies occasionally remain unaware that their partner is already subject to sanctions or possesses deleterious affiliations. In response, we launched an integrity registry—a mechanism designed to provide Ukrainians in Cyprus with amplified information regarding companies, entrepreneurs, public organizations, and service providers. Furthermore, we are conducting educational initiatives to

enable Ukrainian businesses to circumvent unscrupulous partners. Specifically, we initiated a series of engagements with the Young Business Club Cyprus.

Moreover, for instance, when Russian vessels execute oil transshipment operations, circumventing international sanctions, we meticulously document such instances and relay the intelligence to journalists, partners in Brussels, and relevant competent authorities.

Tangible Change

Within the 10 months of your tenure, the Embassy has successfully orchestrated two presidential visits. What strategic benefits have these yielded for Ukraine?

In addition to the two presidential visits, there were three visits by the Minis-

ter of Foreign Affairs, two visits by the Deputy Prime Minister, and visits by other ministers. These constitute truly historic occurrences that generated considerable resonance and tangible impact.

The initial step was the meeting between the two presidents—Cyprus and Ukraine—in Kyiv in December 2025, and the subsequent phase was President Zelenskyy's visit to Nicosia in January 2026. This marked the first comprehensive visit by a Ukrainian president to the island in 11 years.

Cyprus demonstrated its unequivocal support for Ukraine across all governmental echelons and duly attested to this before its partners. Volodymyr Zelenskyy subsequently delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Cypriot presidency of the EU Council. Additionally, for the first time, a meeting was convened between our President and the Primate of the Church of Cyprus—Archbishop Georgios; it is widely known that the Church in Cyprus wields substantial societal influence. This inaugural visit established the requisite political impetus for subsequent processes during Cyprus's presidency of the EU Council.

As a direct consequence, Cyprus acceded to the International Coalition for the Repatriation of Ukrainian Children abducted by the Russian Federation, as well as the coalition dedicated to the establishment of a Special Tribunal concerning Russia's crime against Ukraine. The list of further contributions is extensive.

Current efforts are focused on unblocking integration clusters for Ukraine. Why is this process of such paramount importance?

The velocity of Ukraine's trajectory toward EU membership, sustained financial assistance, and the degree of trust exhibited by international partners are directly contingent upon the unblocking of the six pivotal negotiation clusters.

These clusters encompass legislative reform, customs and border procedures, the modification of security standards, and the attainment of ac-



cess to European programs and financing. The first cluster has, in essence, already been unfrozen; we anticipate an official announcement on June 16.

Collectively, the Cypriot presidency of the EU Council furnished an essential window of opportunity for Ukraine, which we capitalized upon with maximum efficiency. Over the span of six months, we succeeded in conducting the maximum viable number of official events. During one such event, Cyprus formally announced the provision of €90 million in assistance to Ukraine.

You initiated a significant memorandum for Ukraine, which was endorsed by representatives from 17 nations. How did this strategic concept originate?

On September 10, 2025, the Russian Federation executed a missile strike in the vicinity of the Polish border. At 06:00, I contacted the Polish Ambassador and proposed the issuance of a joint communiqué concerning the incident. We expeditiously drafted the text, and on the same day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus released an official condemnation.

It was then I discerned that if such a collaborative model proves efficacious at the bilateral level, a more pronounced effect could be achieved by unifying a broader coalition of partners around the Ukrainian issue.

Following this realization, I commenced engaging diplomats from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, and subsequently, the remaining partners. Thus, a cohesive circle of states prepared to act jointly and publicly solidified around the matter of Ukraine.

The culmination of these efforts transpired on February 24, 2026, when we formally signed the joint document, "United in Solidarity with Ukraine," on behalf of 17 states. This generated a substantial political impact. Even within the Cypriot MFA itself, it appeared unexpected that such an extensive, public, and consolidated international coalition of support could be successfully forged around Ukraine.

Which outcome of these 10 months of work do you deem the most consequential?

In addition to the aforementioned achievements, it is, unequivocally, the formal accession of two Ukrainian organizations—the Society of Ukrainian-Cypriot Friendship and the Ukrainian House in Paphos—to the Ukrainian World Congress. We engaged in negotiations concerning this matter for approximately six months.

Membership in the World Congress will facilitate these Ukrainian organizations in establishing new contacts and accessing grant programs that were previously unattainable to them. Furthermore, the Ukrainian House in Paphos

has now, through the concerted support of the Embassy, been granted "Unity Hub" status by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, and in May, an advisor to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was officially appointed in Cyprus.

I also wish to underscore that we successfully organized robust media support for the diplomatic relations between Cyprus and Ukraine by means of the UA Experts bulletin, which my wife and I co-created. Cypriots receive current information concerning Ukrainian events in Cyprus, and Ukrainians are apprised of key figures within the Cypriot community. We produce the journal in English and disseminate it within diplomatic circles, among government officials, the business community, and the Ukrainian diaspora.

To achieve this, we organize events, develop joint initiatives, and maintain continuous dialogue. For instance, the Embassy is currently addressing the issue of Cyprus recognizing the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. Such momentous decisions cannot be adopted solely through diplomatic notes—they necessitate broad societal endorsement, comprehensive media campaigns, and substantive public deliberations. In this context, the Ukrainian community is our principal strategic partner.



Cyprus currently endorses Ukraine in 95-97% of international initiatives—this is the cumulative result of daily work.

The Embassy operates with severely constrained fiscal resources. However, the objective remains, and we proactively seek alternative solutions. Occasionally, we achieve a phenomenal result despite the lack of significant funds.

How do you define the efficacy of a diplomat?

An ambassador's efficacy is quantified by tangible outcomes: the pattern of the host country's voting for Ukraine at the UN, the quantity of signed agreements, the sense of security within the Ukrainian community, and whether bi-



lateral trade volume and political support are demonstrably increasing.

Cypriot media, incidentally, were viewed as an unwavering obstacle for many years. Yet recently, according to the Cypriot television channel "Sigma TV," the Ukrainian Embassy was ranked among the top seven most active diplomatic missions out of 65 on the island! Expert panels, assisted by AI auxiliaries, evaluated the volume of initiatives, signed agreements, the depth of public diplomacy, and the Embassy's overall influence on community life.

Diplomacy Off the Record

Prior to the major conflict, the Ukrainian community in Cyprus comprised approximately 4,000 individuals, but today that figure has expanded to 33,000, factoring in the roughly 24,000 Ukrainians currently holding temporary protection status. How has this altered your role as a diplomat?

This represents a fundamentally different magnitude of responsibility.

My imperative is to consolidate these individuals and ensure that the Ukrainian community perceives itself as protected and secure.

You allocate significant attention to cultural diplomacy. Why do you prioritize this specific instrument?

Because culture provides a medium through which people acquire a deeper comprehension of the prevailing situation in Ukraine.

For example, when we hosted a culinary event and offered foreign guests Ukrainian borscht, we simultaneously positioned an installation at the entrance—charred grain, fragmented pieces of broken bread—and placed an element nearby symbolizing a missile strike. During such engagements, attendees receive a message that is cultural, emotional, and intrinsically political.

How would you envision Cyprus within the coordinate system of Ukrainian interests in the next three to five years?

As a nation where Ukrainian interests benefit from systemic support, and where a political faction emerges within the Cypriot parliament that will openly champion a consistently pro-Ukrainian stance. I maintain the conviction that Cyprus can evolve into a strategic platform for Ukraine in the Eastern Mediterranean, and we are proactively constructing this foundational relationship.

Source: <https://forbes.ua/lifestyle/velikiy-vne-sok-malenkogo-kipru-intervyu-sergiya-nizhinskogo-pos-la-ukraini-na-kipri-pro-rol-ostriivnoi-derzhavi-u-pidtrimt-si-ukraini-borotbu-z-rosiyskim-vplivom-i-novu-ukrainsku-diplomatiyu-v-seredzemno-11062026-39519>

Cyprus and Ukraine

Ukraine's European Future: From Resilience to Integration

The European Union's support for Ukraine has never been solely about responding to a war. It is about defending the principles upon which our Union is built: freedom, democracy, sovereignty and the rule of law. More than four years after Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine continues to demonstrate extraordinary resilience, while advancing reforms that bring it ever closer to its European future.

The EU's commitment is reflected in concrete action. Through the Ukraine Facility and related financial instruments, the Union is providing unprecedented support to help Ukraine maintain economic stability, sustain essential public services, advance reforms and prepare for reconstruction. Together with international partners, the EU remains determined to ensure that Ukraine has the resources necessary not only to withstand aggression, but also to build a prosperous future.

At the same time, Ukraine's accession process is entering a new and historic phase. As our President, Ursula von der



Panicos Pourgourides,
Head of the European
Commission Representation
in Cyprus

Leyen, has noted, despite the immense challenges of wartime, Ukraine has continued to implement reforms across key sectors, aligning its legislation and institutions with the European acquis. This determination has been recognised by the European Union. Our Member States have paved the way for the opening of the first negotiating cluster, marking a significant milestone on Ukraine's path towards membership. The message is clear: progress is based on merit, and Ukraine is delivering.



Alongside support and enlargement, sanctions remain a central pillar of the European Union's response to Russia's war of aggression. As President von der Leyen underlined on 9 June 2026, four years after the launch of the full-scale invasion, Russia has failed to subjugate Ukraine and is paying an increasingly heavy economic price for its aggression.



EU sanctions have effectively cut Russia off from global capital markets, while export controls are depriving its defence industry of critical technologies and components. Energy revenues have fallen sharply, pressure on the state budget is growing, and more than two-thirds of the liquid assets of Russia's sovereign wealth fund have been depleted. Building on this approach, the proposed 21st sanctions package targets the sectors with the greatest impact: energy, financial services, trade and the shadow fleet used to circumvent existing restrictions. By maintaining pressure and closing loopholes, the European Union is weakening the economic foundations of Russia's war effort while upholding the principles of sovereignty, international law and the rules-based international order.



The courage and determination shown daily by the Ukrainian people continue to inspire Europeans. The European Union will stand firmly with Ukraine – in its defence, in its recovery and on its path towards membership of our Union.

Panicos Pourgourides,
Head of the European
Commission Representation
in Cyprus



The Role of Cyprus in the Return of Ukrainian Children from the Russian Occupation

"Every day of occupation increases the risk that another child will lose their language, identity, family ties, or even their life." These words by Mykhailo Spasov, Deputy Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights for International Cooperation and European Integration, became one of the most powerful moments of the discussion during the informal meeting of the EU Council working groups, RELEX and RELEX Sanctions, which took place in Cyprus in May and was dedicated to the return of Ukrainian children deported or forcibly transferred by Russia after the start of the full-scale war.

The Ukrainian side broadly presented the facts of deportation, psychological pressure, and violence suffered by Ukrainian children in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territories. Particular attention was given to attempts to alter their identity, including the changing of citizenship, documents, and language, as well as the integration of children into the Russian environment through the education system and so-called "re-education." The data presented prompted active discussion among European diplomats and experts.

We spoke with Mykhailo Spasov about international pressure on Russia, new



Mykhailo Spasov, Deputy Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights for International Cooperation and European Integration

sanctions, the role of intermediary countries, and why the issue of returning Ukrainian children has become one of Europe's key humanitarian challenges today.

Mr. Spasov, on 11 May in Brussels, Cyprus and Switzerland joined the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. To what extent does the expansion of the Coalition influence international pressure on the aggressor?

The accession of new states to the International Coalition strengthens international support for Ukraine and reinforces the coordination of sanctions and legal mechanisms of pressure on Russia.

Over the past year, Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, has held 126 meetings with international partners.

That is why consolidated international pressure, sanctions, and joint action by the democratic world remain critically necessary for the return of Ukrainian children and for holding those responsible to account.

Is Ukraine considering the possibility of making more active use of Cyprus's diplomatic channels in the process of returning children, given that Kyiv is currently seeking new partner states for this area?

Following Cyprus's accession to the International Coalition, Ukraine expects a strengthening of collective efforts to ensure the safe return of children illegally deported or forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation as a result of its war against Ukraine.

The foundation of this cooperation must be an unwavering commitment to protecting Ukrainian children in accordance with international humanitarian law and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At present, Ukraine hopes that Cyprus, as a member of the Coalition, will support joint political messages and actively contribute to international coordination aimed at documenting cases of non-compliance by the Russian Federation with international resolutions and humanitarian obligations.



As of May 2026, Ukraine has officially confirmed more than 20,570 cases of deportation of Ukrainian children. How difficult is it today to verify this data and obtain information about the children's whereabouts?

In the public domain, senior officials of the Russian Federation have stated that at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russia took more than 744,000 Ukrainian children out of Ukraine. At the same time, the Russian side resorts to manipulation and the provision of incomplete information, including information obtained from children, creating artificial obstacles to their return.

In addition, the Russian Federation refuses to provide any official statistics, blocks monitoring, and does not respond to requests from international organisations. It also does not allow representatives of the UN and other independent structures access to places where children are being held, does not transfer information to the Central Tracing Agency under the Geneva Conventions, and does not cooperate within the framework of humanitarian dialogue.

The idea of creating a network of intermediary countries for the return of children from the occupied territories and Russia is being discussed. How could such a mechanism work in practice?

In the process of returning Ukrainian children, mediation tools already play a critically important role today. One of the key examples is Qatar, which is actively involved in the return of deported and forcibly transferred Ukrainian children.

In the United States of America, in 2025, the issue of facilitating the return of Ukrainian children

was raised to the highest political level. As of 11 May 2026, 2,134 children had been returned to Ukrainian-controlled territory, including 26 children with the assistance of US First Lady Melania Trump, and 83 children through the mediation of the State of Qatar, among them four adults.

In practice, intermediary countries assist in searching for and identifying children, establishing their whereabouts, organising humanitarian communication, and accompanying the return process.

Within the framework of the "Bring Kids Back UA" initiative, more than 2,134 children have already been returned home. What

is currently forcing Russia to respond to the issue of returning Ukrainian children?

Sanctions policy has become one of the key levers of influence on the process of returning Ukrainian children, as the issue of deportation has become part of international criminal prosecution and economic pressure on those responsible.

As Dmytro Lubinets has repeatedly emphasised, Russia does not respond to arguments; it responds only to strength.

After the children are returned, an equally complex issue arises: psychological and social rehabilitation. What role can humanitarian programmes play in the recovery of children after their return from deportation?

Every child who has been returned is a victory of justice over evil. All children whom we return are brought to the Child Rights Protection Centre in Kyiv, which operates under the Office of the Ombudsman.

Assistance at the Centre is provided in safe and child-friendly conditions. It includes psychological, legal, and social support. Each child's needs are assessed, and a plan for adaptation and reintegration is developed.

An interagency team of specialists works with each child. They provide emergency, short-term, and long-term assistance. Children are helped to receive medical care, restore their documents, and obtain psychological and humanitarian support.



Ukraine and Cyprus

Ukrainian Home in Paphos: Where Culture Is a Way to Survive



Yulia Piddubna,
President of Ukrainian
Home in Cyprus

Some cities are where Ukrainian communities simply exist. Paphos is where they truly live.

Ukrainian Home in Paphos grew from a grassroots volunteer movement in the first days of the full-scale war and has transformed into a vibrant cultural and educational centre. It is entirely volunteer-run – no salaries, no budgets. We exist through donations and the support of patrons. None of this would have been possible without our patron Adam Kharlampovych – a Ukrainian businessman from Volhynia – whose support remains our foundation.

Today, under one roof, you will find a Ukrainian school and kindergarten, a library, a school of fine and applied arts, language courses, an adult choir “Vilna”, a children’s choir “Perelitni Ptashenata”, workshops, yoga and chess. But

beyond the list – there is a feeling. That you are among your own people.

Children are at the heart of everything we do. Ukrainian kids growing up in Paphos come here and find something hard to put into words: a language that sounds like home, a space where no one needs to explain who they are. Without noticing, they become carriers of a culture someone once tried to erase.

One of our core missions is supporting creative people – artists, musicians, performers. Regular exhibitions and concerts are part of our life, and many of them raise funds for the Ukrainian Armed Forces.



A special place belongs to our interactive exhibition “The Ukrainian Sixties. Your Move” – about the generation who fought for the right to speak Ukrainian and paid with their freedom. Created by curators Olha Todchuk and Kateryna Shylova, it brings history uncomfortably close. Visitors can explore independently or join a guided tour. We dream of this exhibition travelling to Ukrainian cultural centres around the world.



Ambassador of Ukraine Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Yuliia Piddubna, President of Ukrainian Home in Cyprus



Ukrainian Home also reaches beyond its walls – several times a year we bring events to open city spaces, welcoming all nationalities. Ukraine is not only war. It is a living, warm, rich culture. Every national holiday is celebrated with meaning, and every Christmas the city hears Ukrainian carols.



Ukrainian Home in Paphos is a place where memory does not become a museum piece. It lives in children's voices, in artists' canvases, in concert halls. Culture does not wait to go home – it happens here and now.



Choir “Vilna”



The Ukrainian Voice of Cyprus

How the Community Became a Force that Unites, Supports, and Acts



For many years, Cyprus remained an ambiguous geopolitical space. Due to the strong historical presence of Russian capital, media narratives, and cultural influence, the Ukrainian position on the island long needed greater visibility, institutional strength, and systematic representation.

Yet it was precisely under these difficult conditions that, over recent years, one of the most stable and united Ukrainian communities in Europe has grown. A community that has learned not only to support its own people, but also to speak about Ukraine loudly, with dignity, and in a systematic way.

Today, the Ukrainian community in Cyprus is no longer a collection of isolated initiatives, but a powerful consolidated movement. Its journey from fragmented efforts to an influential civic force began with the tireless work of volunteers in 2017, when

the Society of Ukrainian-Cypriot Friendship was founded – the oldest official organisation of the Ukrainian community on the island.

From the very beginning, the team's main goal was to make Ukrainians in Cyprus visible: to unite the community, support integration, promote Ukrainian culture, and build active sociocultural ties with Cypriots.

The true turning point came with the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. It was then that the Ukrainian community in Cyprus reached a new level of self-organisation. The Society became one of the key coordinators of regular rallies, marches, and peaceful protest actions in different cities across the island, focusing on advocacy for Ukraine's interests, support for the front line, and the unification of Ukrainians around a common goal.

This was the moment when it became clear: the Ukrainian community in Cyprus is an organised, determined, and visible force, capable not only of speaking about Ukraine, but also of acting systematically in its support.

"The activities of the Society began with the desire to make the Ukrainian community more united and visible. After the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the organisation significantly expanded its activities and became an important centre of civic and volunteer

support," says the Chair of the Society, Nadiia Mykhailina. "From the first days of the war, funds raised through our events and initiatives have been directed towards the purchase of electronic warfare systems, drones, tactical medical supplies, generators, Starlink terminals, and vehicles for the Ukrainian military.

At the same time, we are working to strengthen ties between the Ukrainian and Cypriot communities through cultural, educational, and civic projects. For many Ukrainians who moved to the island, the Society has become a platform for meeting people, mutual support, and active participation in community life."

Over the years, the Society has launched and developed its own proj-



ects, which today have become its hallmark and an important part of Ukrainian life in Cyprus. The Ukrainian column at the Limassol Carnival, Independence Day concerts, community Easter picnics, the charitable "Ukrainian Calendar", flash mobs for Vyshyvanka Day, and participation in organising the Civil Resistance Forum – all of this has gradually shaped a strong, modern, and dignified image of Ukraine in Cyprus.

Cultural diplomacy has become a separate area of work. Thanks to the involvement of new active members with a high level of professional expertise, the Society has developed a strong cultural programme: film screenings, public discussions, meetings with well-known Ukrainians, and events that bring together not only Ukrainians, but also friends of Ukraine.

Among the most notable recent initiatives were the screenings of Anton Ptushkin's documentary "Antarctica" and the film about the band "Okean Elzy". Both events became not only cultural gatherings, but also powerful charitable campaigns. Despite the relatively small size of the Ukrainian community in Cyprus, the Cypriot community, in both cases, ranked among the leaders among European locations in terms of fundraising results in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This became further proof that the strength of a community is measured not by numbers, but by the level of trust, unity, and readiness to act.



A new milestone in the Society's development was its official accession to leading international Ukrainian institutions – the Ukrainian World Congress and the European Congress of Ukrainians. The participation of the Society's delegation in the Summit of World Ukrainians opened access for the



community to global networking, new partnerships, international donors, and expert circles.

The Society traditionally maintains strong partnership relations with the Embassy of Ukraine in Cyprus and other Ukrainian centres, holding key joint events and initiatives.

Institutional support for Ukrainian projects on the island remains an important area of work. At one stage, the Society became a reliable support base for the Ukrainian school "Kryla", helping it through its first year of formation. Today, the school already operates as an independent and strong educational space for the community.

The Society provides the same support to the Plast scouting movement, which has been developing in Cyprus since 2019. Over this time, a small initiative that began with two groups has grown into an active organisation with three branches – in Limassol, Larnaca, and Nicosia. Today, Plast in Cyprus includes more than 100 children and teenagers.

Over several years, Plast members have organised dozens of camps and training sessions, participated in international meetings and events, and, most importantly, created an environment in which the younger generation of Ukrainians maintains a connection with its culture, history, and values, regardless of the country in which they live.

Today, when the full-scale war has already been ongoing for more than four years, the Society's team sees assistance to Ukraine as comprehensive and long-term. It is important to support not only the front line, but also those who

return from war to civilian life after severe combat and traumatic experiences.

That is why the Society's plans include the launch of an ambitious pilot project for the rehabilitation and recovery of Ukrainian veterans in Cyprus. The team's strategic goal is to

transform the island's unique climate, community resources, and partnership networks into a sustainable programme that will help Ukrainian defenders restore their strength, health, and faith in the future.



Every day, the Ukrainian community in Cyprus proves that even far from home, one can remain close to Ukraine. Joint efforts turn into real actions – cultural, educational, humanitarian, volunteer, and advocacy-based.

And everyone who shares these values can become part of this force.

Join the initiatives of the Society of Ukrainian-Cypriot Friendship, support events, volunteer fundraising campaigns, and civic projects.

Look for announcements of events and initiatives on the Society's Instagram and Facebook pages.



Event & Initiative
Updates

Cyprus and Ukraine

The Human Dimension Is the Main Goal of the Exhibition



Wouter Plomp,
the Ambassador of
the Netherlands in
Cyprus



In May, an exhibition opened in Limassol at Gallery Morfi that impressed even Ukrainians themselves. Footage of the war from a different angle. None of the visitors remained indifferent and returned again, because for foreigners, for example, it was a new understanding of the events in Ukraine. The organizer of the exhibition of works by the famous photographer Eddie van Wessel was the Embassy of the Netherlands in Cyprus. In cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, diplomats prepared an event that was supposed to touch all levels of perception.



1. How did the idea of organizing an exhibition of Eddie van Wessel's work first come about?

We wanted to mark 24 February, already four years on since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, together with Ukraine and for Ukraine, and in cooperation with other embassies. It became a joint effort between partners. As the Netherlands, we specifically wanted to highlight the humanitarian impact of the war through the lens of Eddy van Wessel's photography.



2. Eddie van Wessel's photographs reveal aspects of war that are often absent from media coverage, focusing on the personal stories and experiences of individuals caught in conflict. Was highlighting this human dimension one of the exhibition's main goals?

Exactly. The human dimension was a key objective of the exhibition. Through Eddy's work, we aimed to bring the lived reality of people affected by the war closer to the audience. And I think this is what happened when many people, Cypriots,

Ukrainians and also some Russians, visited the exhibition in Morfy Gallery in Limassol. We're very satisfied about the cooperation with the Cyprus Photographers Society, because they are an extremely professional organization and we found their members to be very committed, also personally, to give the photographs the stage where people can engage with them.



3. Your support means a great deal to Ukrainians. Why is supporting Ukraine important to you personally?

On a personal level, it strongly reminds me of the Second World War, a type of large-scale war I believed we had left behind in history. A war that should belong to the

past. It is an unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression against Ukraine, an independent country. It reinforces for me the importance of standing up for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, in line with the UN Charter and international law, and for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine.



4. Exhibitions like this can evoke strong emotions and encourage reflection. Do you think that, in today's world, creative and cultural initiatives are particularly important for reaching people on a deeper, more personal level?

Absolutely. Art can reach other levels of our mind, and it can touch the heart.

That makes it a very powerful tool to create awareness and reflection.

Asset Protection in Cyprus

Why it is no longer only about Trusts, but about strategy, family and long-term security



Ms Chryso Christofidou,
Director and Advocate of
Feod Group, and Ms Elena
Georgiou, Founder of Feod
Group Ukraine-Cyprus



For many years, asset protection was understood in a relatively narrow sense. It was associated with sophisticated legal tools, high-net-worth families, international trusts and cross-border wealth structuring.

Today, that understanding is no longer sufficient. In Cyprus, especially for Ukrainian entrepreneurs, investors and families connected with the island, asset protection has become broader and far more practical. It includes not only inheritance planning and owner-

ship structures, but also immigration status, tax residency, family planning, preparation for a future change of status, business structuring, and the acquisition and proper conveyancing of real estate.

In other words, protecting assets today means protecting not only capital, but also the legal continuity of a family's life, residence, income and future.

To explore these issues, we spoke with Ms Chryso Christofidou, Director and Advocate of Feod Group, and Ms Elena Georgiou, Founder of Feod Group Ukraine-Cyprus.

Has the meaning of asset protection changed in practice?

Elena Georgiou:

Very much so. For many families and business owners, the concept has expanded dramatically.

Traditionally, asset protection was perceived as something technical and reserved for wealthy individuals - a trust here, a holding company there, perhaps a succession tool for a later stage of life. But in our daily practice, especially with Ukrainian clients in Cyprus, we see a much broader reality.

Today, a person may have a Cyprus company, income from abroad, family members living in different countries,

investment property on the island, children studying internationally, and plans to remain in Cyprus long term. In that context, asset protection cannot be limited to a trust deed or a corporate structure alone.

It also includes the client's immigration route and future lawful stay, tax residency and compliance history, the way personal and family income is documented, how real estate is held and conveyed, whether heirs will be able to access and manage assets efficiently, and whether a future change of status has already been legally prepared for.

So yes - asset protection has become a much more comprehensive exercise. It is now about safeguarding ownership, control, family continuity, residence, legality and peace of mind.

Why is that broader approach especially relevant for Ukrainian clients?

Elena Georghiou:

Because Ukrainian clients often live across several legal and practical realities at once.

Their businesses may originate in Ukraine or other jurisdictions. Their family members may have different tax residencies. Some have structured themselves through Ukrainian private entrepreneurship, foreign companies or international income streams. Some have moved temporarily and are now thinking about long-term legalisation on Cyprus. Others are acquiring property, educating children abroad or restructuring family wealth.

This means that their legal questions are never purely Cypriot and never purely Ukrainian. They sit at the intersection. That is exactly why a Ukrainian-Cypriot team is so valuable. We understand both the local legal mechanics of Cyprus and the mentality, concerns and practical realities of Ukrainian clients.

We can identify disconnects early - for example, when a client's immigration position, tax residency and corporate structure are moving in different directions. That integrated vision is where real asset protection begins.

Chryso, where does the Cyprus International Trust fit within this discussion?

Chryso Christofidou:

The Cyprus International Trust remains one of the most elegant and powerful legal instruments available for the protection, preservation and orderly transmission of wealth.

A trust is a legal relationship under which a Settlor transfers assets to a Trustee, who holds and manages them for the benefit of the Beneficiaries. The Trustee holds legal title, while the beneficial interest belongs to the Beneficiaries. That separation of ownership is what gives the trust its protective nature.

Unlike a company, a trust has no separate legal personality. Its strength lies in the fiduciary structure itself. Under Cyprus law, the modern international trust regime is widely respected and highly flexible. It is used for asset protection, estate planning, confidentiality, family governance, and the efficient holding of international assets, including shares, bank deposits, portfolios and even Cyprus real estate.

What makes Cyprus particularly attractive is the balance between common law certainty and modern legislation designed for international clients.

How can a trust work together with a Cyprus company or a Cyprus holding company?

Chryso Christofidou:

Very often, the most efficient structure is not a trust holding every asset directly, but a trust holding the shares of a Cyprus company, while the company itself owns and manages the underlying assets.

For example, a client may wish to hold real estate, maintain bank funds or manage an investment portfolio. Rather than placing every asset directly into the trust, the trust can own the shares of a Cyprus company, and that company can hold the property, open the accounts and perform the day-to-day operations. This separates strategic

ownership from operational management.

In a more advanced model, the trust may hold the shares of a Cyprus holding company, and the holding company in turn owns subsidiary companies, real estate, investment assets or business participations. This creates order where a family has accumulated several categories of assets over time.

The trust provides the protective, succession-oriented and confidential ownership framework. The company or holding company provides the practical vehicle for transactions, administration and continuity. That makes the structure particularly suitable for families who want protection, governance and long-term planning within one coordinated framework.

One of the most sensitive topics in cross-border families is inheritance. How does a trust help there?

Chryso Christofidou:

Succession is often the point at which a lack of structure becomes painfully visible.

Where a person holds assets directly, especially across several countries, death may trigger probate delays, inheritance disputes, issues of forced heirship, uncertainty over beneficial ownership, tax consequences in different jurisdictions, and practical difficulties for surviving family members. A trust can significantly reduce such risks.

A properly drafted trust can set out who will benefit, how and when distributions may be made, whether support should be ongoing or discretionary, whether children receive capital later while a spouse receives income earlier, and how vulnerable family members should be protected.

In many families, the goal is not simply to leave assets, but to manage how family members receive value, at what stage of life, and under what safeguards. A trust is particularly effective for that purpose.



Ms Elena
Georghiou,
Founder of
Feod Group
Ukraine-Cyprus

Clients are often afraid that once they place assets into a trust, they lose all control. How do you address that concern?

Chryso Christofidou:

It is one of the most common concerns, and it needs a precise answer.

Yes, the trust works because legal ownership is transferred to the Trustee. That legal separation is what creates protection. However, modern Cyprus trust law is flexible enough to allow the Settlor to retain a number of meaningful powers without invalidating the trust, provided the structure is drafted correctly.

The role of the Protector is especially important. A Protector may oversee or restrict the powers of the Trustee and can approve, block or supervise major actions. In practice, this means the Settlor no longer owns the assets personally, but may still retain structured influence over how the trust is administered.

So the real answer is this: the client gives up personal ownership, but not necessarily intelligent control.

Can a trust also be used together with an investment company or portfolio structure?

Chryso Christofidou:

Certainly. This is one of the more attractive modern applications.

A trust can hold the shares of an investment company which, in turn, may hold financial assets, securities, portfolios or participations in other entities. That allows families not only to preserve value, but also to create a long-term investment governance framework.



This is particularly useful where a family wants to preserve a portfolio over time, distribute value only when appropriate, and separate ownership from day-to-day investment management. The trust protects the long-term family logic, while the company or manager carries out the practical investment activity.

Where do tax residency and immigration status fit into asset protection?

Elena Georghiou:

In reality, they are structural pillars of asset protection.

A client may have a well-drafted trust, a company, property and an apparent wealth plan – but if the tax residency position is unclear, reporting obligations have not been respected, or the future immigration route is unstable, the entire structure may become vulnerable. Not necessarily because the legal instruments are defective, but because the personal framework around them is incoherent.

Tax residency affects how income is reported, where obligations arise, and whether the client's overall planning is sustainable. Immigration status is equally important. If a person's lawful stay on Cyprus is temporary, uncertain, or not aligned with long-term intentions, that uncertainty affects business planning, tax residency, property planning, family settlement and even the timing of how structures should be implemented.

So yes – residence, tax status, business model and ownership structure must speak to each other. They are part of the same strategic conversation.



FEOD
GROUP

Before we conclude, what practical documents or first steps should clients expect if they want to create a trust or similar structure?

Chryso Christofidou:

Good structuring always begins with proper preparation.

In practice, the first stage usually includes KYC documentation for all relevant parties, proof of source of funds or source of wealth, a clear understanding of the family structure and intended beneficiaries, identification of the assets to be settled or acquired, and discussion of the roles of Settlor, Trustee, Protector and possible corporate officers.

This applies not only to trusts, but in substance to most serious corporate or asset-protection structures. The most important thing for clients to understand is that a trust is not a cosmetic add-on. It is a legal transfer of ownership into a structured relationship. That is precisely why it works, and why the planning must be thoughtful from the beginning.

Ms Chryso
Christofidou,
Director and
Advocate of Feod
Group

What is the key message you would like readers to take away from this conversation?

Chryso Christofidou:

That real asset protection is not achieved through one document or one product. It is achieved through legal architecture.

Elena Georghiou:

And I would add that today, that architecture must be broader than ever before. A trust, a holding company, tax residency, immigration planning, family strategy and property acquisition often need to be considered together. The most successful clients are those who plan before a problem appears.

Conclusion

Cyprus remains one of the most sophisticated legal jurisdictions in Europe for families, investors and business owners seeking to protect wealth, structure ownership and plan for the future. But the meaning of asset protection has evolved.

It is no longer only about placing assets into a trust or incorporating a company. It is about creating a sustainable legal framework that protects not only wealth, but also family continuity, residence, compliance, succession, investment strategy and the long-term security of future generations.

For Ukrainian and international clients alike, this is the real message of modern asset protection in Cyprus: not an isolated instrument, but a coordina



Cyprus to Ukraine via Chisinau: A Convenient Route with SkyUp™



While direct air travel to Ukraine remains unavailable, routes that help people abroad, including Ukrainians, stay connected to Ukraine have become more important than ever. One of them is SkyUp™'s Larnaca – Chisinau. More than just a direct flight between two

cities, it forms part of a larger journey – whether to reunite with family, travel for business, enjoy a holiday, or simply return home. In this interview, we discuss the benefits of the route, the convenience of Chisinau Airport as a gateway to Ukraine, travelling with children, and SkyUp™'s pet-friendly service.

SkyUp™ is a Ukrainian-born airline brand that continues to serve abroad. How would you describe SkyUp's role today for passengers, including those Ukrainians who live or temporarily stay outside Ukraine?

SkyUp™ is an airline with a Ukrainian heart. Like thousands of our fellow Ukrainians, we found ourselves abroad after the full-scale war began. We are pleased that we managed to adapt to the international aviation market during this challenging period and successfully relaunched our scheduled flight programme in 2025, providing passengers to continue travelling to Ukraine, including Ukrainians abroad to stay connected with home and loved ones, in particular through the convenient Cyprus – Chisinau route.

Tell us more about the Larnaca – Chisinau route. Who is it most suitable for, and what travel needs does it address?

Flights from Larnaca Airport to Chisinau are part of our broader scheduled network connecting European cities with Moldova's main international gateway. Within just one year of operations, Cyprus became one of the five most popular destinations across SkyUp™'s entire scheduled network. Currently, SkyUp™ is based in Chisinau, one of the closest international airports to Ukraine.

Passengers choosing this route benefit from flexible fare options. One of the most popular is the Fly&Smile fare, which includes 23 kg of checked baggage and 9 kg of cabin baggage – an optimal choice for travellers who want flexibility while still having everything they need for their journey. The route is also convenient for families travelling with children, including those using our unaccompanied minor service. Passengers can enjoy quality onboard catering and comfortable travel with pets, includ-



Dmytro Sieroukhov,
General Director at
SkyUp Airlines LLC





ing the option to transport them in the aircraft cabin.

Why does Chisinau remain one of the most convenient gateways to Ukraine today? What should passengers travelling from Larnaca to Chisinau and then onward to Ukraine plan in advance?



The main advantage of travelling via Chisinau is speed. Border crossing times are generally much shorter compared to the queues often experienced at the Polish border. For passengers travelling to central and southern oblasts of Ukraine, this is often the most practical logistical option.

There are several ways to continue the journey from Chisinau to Ukraine.

One of the most affordable options is by bus. To Kyiv, they typically depart in the morning and evening, while to Odesa – every half an hour during almost all day.

In general, there are numerous bus departures during the day. Travel times depend on the final destination and range from 4 to 16 hours.

Passengers arriving in Chisinau in the afternoon may also choose the Chisinau – Kyiv train. It departs the Moldovan capital at around 5:00 p.m. and arrives in Kyiv shortly after noon the following day. While the journey takes approximately 19 hours, it can be a comfortable option for travellers who prefer to rest while travelling.

Private and group transfers offer an alternative for those seeking greater comfort and less stress. They are also particularly convenient for passengers travelling with larger amounts of luggage. Another option is to rent a car and travel independently at your own pace.

What flight schedule is available on the Larnaca – Chisinau route, and how convenient is it for passengers continuing their journey to Ukraine by land?

We currently operate four flights per week: on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. During the peak season months of August and September, we plan to add one more frequency.

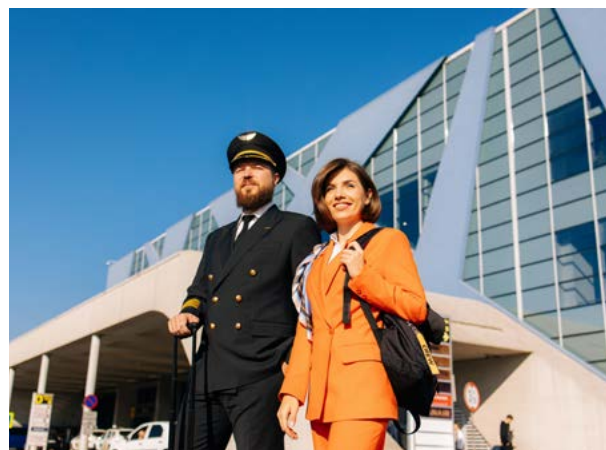


The flight time is approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes. Most flights depart in the morning, allowing passengers to arrive in Chisinau by the afternoon and continue their onward journey the same day. One weekly flight operates in the evening.

What message would you like to share with people in Cyprus who are planning to travel to Ukraine via Chisinau?

We put much value on passenger comfort and experience on our airlines; therefore, we continuously work on improving every aspect of our service.

We have designed our schedule with the understanding that many passengers still need to continue their journey



to Ukraine after arriving in Moldova. We aim to make those connections as smooth and time-efficient as possible.

We continue to introduce services that make travelling with children and pets more comfortable. We offer quality on-

Crossing Borders Without Barriers

What Ukraine's Wounded Veterans Need When They Travel Abroad

In 2026, Captain Khrystyna Sanina, Ukraine's ambassador of inclusivity – was formally discharged from military service by order of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, on health grounds. The decision marked a turning point rather than an ending. Shortly afterward, during her first trip abroad with her husband, she met in Cyprus with Sergii Nizhynskyi, who served as Ukraine's Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus until stepping down in June 2026 amid a dispute with the Foreign Ministry over the circumstances of his departure.

That trip turned out to be more than a personal milestone. It surfaced, in real time, the everyday barriers that veterans with amputations face the moment they leave Ukraine – barriers that have little to do with goodwill and everything to do with infrastructure, training, and coordination. Drawing on that experience, here are five areas that need attention.



Olga Kalga,
youth policy expert,
MP advisor, private
entrepreneur

1. Adapting State Border Guard Service checkpoints

Crossing the border is the first moment a veteran with an amputation hits a barrier: narrow inspection corridors, no separate lane, and staff who don't know how to conduct a check on someone with a prosthesis correctly, without demanding it be removed or asking intrusive questions. Every checkpoint needs a dedicated, priority lane, plus a protocol for border guards on interacting with people with disabilities, developed jointly with veterans' organizations.

A particular focus is needed on the Ukraine–Moldova border crossings, which serve as a key transit route for veterans traveling to EU countries for rehabilitation and prosthetics fitting. Checkpoints such as Kuchurhan–Pervomaisk and Palanka are among the most frequently used – yet remain among the least adapted for people with limited mobility. Given Moldova's role as a gateway to Europe for many wounded veterans, upgrading these crossings to meet accessibility standards should be treated as a priority, not an afterthought.

2. Airport assistance "from check-in to arrival"

Existing wheelchair assistance services are often fragmented – the person gets passed from hand to hand, and information gets lost at transfers. What's needed is a "single point of contact" principle: one assistant who accompanies the traveler from the check-in counter to the arrivals exit, including connecting flights, without having to re-explain their situation at every stage.

3. On-the-ground assistance in Ukrainian

Most veterans don't speak English, and in a stressful situation – pain, travel fatigue, unfamiliar surroundings – even basic communication becomes a barrier. Partnerships with Ukrainian diaspora or-



ganizations and consulates are needed to build a network of interpreter-assistants, or a Ukrainian-language hotline, specifically in locations popular for veteran rehabilitation and treatment.

4. A map of accessible places and hotels with special outlets

Ukraine already has its own barrier-free map – a domestic tool that has proven its value and demonstrated real demand among people with disabilities. The next step is to extend this logic internationally. A hotel's claimed "accessibility" abroad often doesn't match real needs – there's no verification of whether charging is available for prostheses or batteries, or whether the bathroom is genuinely barrier-free. What's needed is a verified, not self-declared, international map of hotels and locations with actual checks against criteria such as outlets, step-free thresholds, and door width, built from veterans' own experience rather than marketing descriptions.

5. Dedicated car rental services for people with limited mobility

Hand-controlled vehicles are hard to find and pre-book abroad, and rental company staff are often unprepared to work with Ukrainian disability documentation. A network of rental partners is needed that guarantees booking of adapted vehicles and recognizes Ukrainian disability documents without extra bureaucracy on the ground.



The bottom line

None of this requires reinventing global accessibility standards. It requires applying the standards that already exist consistently, and building the few pieces that are missing – Ukrainian-language support, verified accessibility data, and continuity of care – with Ukraine's veterans specifically in mind. A trip abroad should be a step toward normal life, not another front to navigate alone.



The Power of the Ukrainian Voice

How UKRCY.news Is Reshaping Cyprus's Media Landscape

Cyprus has long been known not only for its rich history and picturesque landscapes but also for its sizeable Russian-speaking community. For many years, Russian-language media outlets and businesses played a significant role in shaping the island's public discourse. Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, however, the Ukrainian community in Cyprus underwent a profound transformation. It grew rapidly, became more visible, and increasingly sought to make its voice heard. This created a need for an independent Ukrainian-language platform — one built by the community and for the community.

It was in this environment that UKRCY.news, an independent Ukrainian media outlet in Cyprus, emerged and gradually evolved.

"Three years ago, we started with a simple idea: to create a convenient platform where people could find information about events, community initiatives, practical matters, and, most importantly, stories about Ukrainians living in Cyprus. Yet the needs of the community turned out to be much greater than we had anticipated. Over time, the initiative developed into a fully-fledged Ukrainian media outlet. What stands behind it today is the dedication of volunteers whose daily work has helped transform the project into a strong and recognizable voice of the Ukrainian diaspora," says co-founder and editor-in-chief Tetiana Yerokhina.

The publication covers a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from in-depth analysis, decisions of the Cypriot authorities, and European Union developments to reports from local events, cultural festivals, and community initiatives. At the same time, support for Ukraine and the promotion of Ukrainian values remain central to the editorial mission.

Over the years, UKRCY.news has become something of a digital archive of Ukrainian life in Cyprus. Through photo-

graphs, interviews, feature stories, and reports, it documents the experiences of the community — its challenges and achievements, its adaptation to a new country, its cultural life, volunteer efforts, and its determination to preserve Ukrainian identity far from home.

The project also challenges the perception of Cyprus as little more than a tourist destination. By exploring the island's authentic culture, history, traditions, and lesser-known stories, the editorial team helps foster a deeper understanding between Ukrainians and Cypriots. In doing so, the publication has become more than a source of news; it serves as a bridge connecting two cultures through dialogue and shared experiences.

For many Ukrainians on the island, UKRCY.news has become a daily point of connection with their community. For Cyprus, it stands as evidence that the Ukrainian community is not only capable of adapting to new realities, but also of creating meaningful initiatives that strengthen civic engagement, encourage mutual support, and promote shared European values.



Inter-Municipal Cooperation as a Tool

Ensuring Access to Services for Survivors of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Across Ukraine

Domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations in Ukraine. Amid the full-scale war, the risks of violence escalate significantly due to forced displacement, economic instability, psychological distress, and the disruption of established social networks. Concurrently, ensuring access to high-quality specialized services for

survivors remains a profound challenge for many territorial communities, particularly small and remote ones.

One effective mechanism for addressing this issue is inter-municipal cooperation, which enables communities to pool resources, co-utilize existing services, and establish robust referral mechanisms to guide survivors toward the necessary assistance.

From March to June 2026, the non-governmental organization "UA Experts," in collaboration with the National Social

Service of Ukraine and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), implemented a series of capacity-building and practical workshops across Rivne, Kirovohrad, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, and Chernivtsi regions. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of territorial communities to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence by fostering inter-municipal cooperation and ensuring equitable access to specialized services, regardless of an individual's place of residence.

The events brought together representatives from local government authorities, structural subdivisions for social protection, child welfare services, social service centers, healthcare facilities, units of the National Police of Ukraine, the free legal aid system, and other multi-agency response stakeholders.



Oksana Nechytailo,
National
Coordinator of the
NGO "UA Experts"



From Service Mapping to Practical Interaction Referral Pathways

The initial phase of the intervention focused on building a shared understanding of violence-related challenges and evaluating the existing response framework. During training sessions in Kropyvnytskyi and Ternopil, participants examined the regulatory and legal frameworks governing the operations of response stakeholders, analyzed common institutional oversights, and identified challenges stemming from the war, internal displacement, and the growing demand for survivor support services.

Special emphasis was placed on auditing available community resources and mapping social, psychological, medical, legal, and specialized services. This comprehensive approach facilitated a holistic overview of the regional assistance infrastructure and highlighted existing service delivery gaps.

The practical outcome of this phase was the drafting of unified survivor referral pathways. These pathways are designed to guarantee a transparent and safe track to assistance for residents across different municipalities, while streamlining coordination among response actors.

Formulating Inter-Municipal Protocols: The Rivne Region Experience

A crucial milestone of the project was a two-day training workshop held on March 25–26, 2026, in Rivne. This session served as a logical progression from prior community engagement phases, shifting the focus from baseline analysis to the creation of actionable operational frameworks.

Participants worked on structuring the internal logic of service access protocols, defining mandatory steps for stakeholders upon initial contact with a survivor, designing inter-municipal referral mechanisms, and aligning case management methodologies. Considerable attention was dedicated to simulating multi-agency cooperation between municipalities and the performance of multidisciplinary teams.



Training Session on Inter-Municipal Cooperation in the Ternopil and Chernivtsi Regions



The efforts culminated in the drafting of cooperation protocols and coordination workflows, which can be utilized for the further formalization of inter-communal partnerships.

Khmelnyskyi Region: A Benchmark for the Practical Implementation of Inter-Municipal Cooperation

The experience of the Khmelnytskyi Urban Territorial Community, which served as a primary pilot community for the project, warrants distinct recognition.

As of May 2026, the Khmelnytskyi community had executed eight cooperation agreements with neighboring municipalities, creating a functional inter-municipal network that secures access to services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.



During a training workshop conducted on May 28–29, 2026, representatives from partner communities worked to refine response algorithms, delineate the roles and institutional responsibilities of stakeholders, and standardize survivor support mechanisms. Significant focus was placed on the operations of multidisciplinary teams and inter-communal coordination in complex cases.

ter-communal coordination in complex cases.

The Khmelnytskyi model demonstrated that inter-municipal cooperation can serve as a viable instrument to expand service accessibility without requiring the costly duplication of a full spectrum of specialized services in every individual community.

Ternopil and Bukovyna Regions: Transitioning to Ready-to-Use Coordination Tools

A vital component of the project involved targeted engagement with communities in the Ternopil and Chernivtsi regions.

In Ternopil, two consecutive capacity-building events were held throughout June 2026. The first was dedicated to service mapping, community resource analysis, and drafting a unified referral pathway. The second training session built upon these findings, focusing on developing concrete protocols for inter-municipal interaction, refining response algorithms, and mapping out standardized support tracks.



Participants simulated practical case studies, analyzed potential risks and barriers to receiving aid, and designed tools to ensure the continuity of support for survivors, irrespective of their geographical location.

Core Project Achievements

The implementation of the project yielded several landmark outcomes:

- The institutional capacity of territorial communities in preventing and countering domestic and gender-based violence was significantly enhanced.
- Service maps and survivor referral pathways were systematically developed and upgraded.
- Inter-municipal interaction protocols were successfully drafted.
- Coordination among local government bodies, social services, law enforcement, healthcare institutions, and the free legal aid system was strengthened.
- Structural preconditions were established for the execution of new inter-municipal cooperation agreements and the expansion of joint support services.

A mirroring approach was applied during the second training workshop held on June 9–10, 2026, in Chernivtsi. Representatives of territorial communities collaborated to improve coordination mechanisms, define the roles of interacting entities, allocate responsibility for case monitoring, and formulate safe tracks to access specialized services.

- The operational readiness of practitioners to work within inter-municipal frameworks was markedly elevated.

Conclusions

The outcomes of this project demonstrate that inter-municipal cooperation stands out as one of the most promising mechanisms for ensuring the accessibility of specialized services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Resource pooling, harmonized referral tracks, and effective multi-agency coordination enable communities to build viable support systems, even when faced with constrained financial and human resources.

At the same time, the success of such models relies not only on the availability of regulatory frameworks for cooperation, but also on the political will of cross-sectoral representatives to work collectively to protect human rights and personal safety. Consequently, advancing inter-municipal cooperation must remain a priority trajectory for both national public policy and local self-governance in the realm of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence.

UA Experts Leadership Club

UA Experts Youth Leaders Shaping a Shared European Future

Thomas Lund-Sørensen, the Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine



Members of the UA Experts Leadership Club recently participated in a series of high-level engagements centered on Ukraine's integration into the European community and the operational realities of wartime diplomacy. These events highlighted the critical role of the younger generation in navigating contemporary geopolitical challenges and fostering international solidarity. From informal dialogues with European partners to analytical cultural screenings, the club's members continue to actively prepare themselves to contribute to Ukraine's strategic diplomatic milestones.

A major highlight of this educational outreach was an exclusive meeting with Thomas Lund-Sørensen, the Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine, held at the

Ukrainian-Danish Youth House. The informal session allowed student leaders to discuss how modern diplomacy functions during active conflict and explore ways the youth can drive the country's Euro-integration forward. Pointing out the deep responsibility resting on emerging professionals, club member Oleksandra Kasiarum noted that the Ambassador's most memorable insight was his reminder that youth inherently shape the fabric of society, as they are the ones who will ultimately live with the consequences of today's historic turning points.

This thematic focus on the rigorous mechanics of diplomacy was further explored through a special screening of the documentary film "THE UKRAINIAN," hosted under the #NextGen4EU initiative by EuropeanHUB. Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium and Wallonie-Bruxelles International, the film offers an unvarnished, behind-the-scenes look at Ukraine's journey to the European Union amid the full-scale invasion. Club member Yuliia Yamnych emphasized how educational it was to view these processes through the experiences of Olha Stefanishyna, learning firsthand about the complex political maneuvers required to secure candidate status in 2022 and the strategies developed within the EU to prevent external political obstruction. Together, these experiences underscore the commitment of UA Experts to developing the sophisticated human capital necessary to anchor Ukraine firmly within the European family.



UA Experts Leadership Club

Moot Court Achievements

In Washington, D.C., UA Experts Leadership Club members Vladyslava Monia and Anastasiia Naida represented Ukraine at the 2026 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, competing as part of the team from the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. As the world's largest moot court simulation, the event gathered top talent from over 100 countries to argue complex public international law issues before simulated panels of the International Court of Justice. The team's rigorous preparation paid off in outstanding marks during the oral rounds, drawing personal praise from Olha Stefanishyna, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States, during a special reception at the Ukrainian Embassy.



Team from the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv



Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2026

Simultaneously, UA Experts legal analyst Kateryna Opanasenko achieved a remarkable breakthrough at the Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2026. Representing Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kateryna's team advanced through a highly selective preliminary pool of 70 global applicants to compete among the top 32 universities in the final oral rounds in Oxford. The team finished just shy of the quarter-finals, deliver-

ing arguments that judges ranked on par with the world's top ten programs. For UA Experts, these elite performances reflect the profound potential of the next generation of Ukrainian lawyers, whose dedication and rhetorical mastery continue to elevate the country's academic and legal standing worldwide.

National Student Conference on International Security and Strategic Deterrence



Valerii Kapiika,
Director of the
Institute of
International
Relations,
Kateryna
Opanasenko
experts of the
NGO "UA Experts"

On April 24, 2026, the Institute of International Relations hosted the All-Ukrainian Student Scientific Conference, titled "Mechanisms of Strategic Deterrence and Regional Security Systems in Modern International Relations." Co-organized by the NGO UA Experts and the Science and Education Department of the Institute's Student Council, the event served as an academic platform for young scholars to address the most pressing vulnerabilities and modern paradigms in global defense politics.

The conference commenced with opening remarks from Valerii Kapiika, Director of the Institute of International Relations, alongside Kateryna Opanasenko, an expert from UA Experts, and Kateryna Huba, representing the Student Council's Science and Education Department and the UA Experts Leadership Club. Following the introductory session, student participants presented their research theses, exploring contemporary security frameworks, geopolitical challenges, and innovative approaches to regional stability.

For UA Experts, witnessing the student community actively engage in complex international security debates is deeply encouraging, especially as global realities demand a thorough reevaluation of traditional deterrence strategies. The organization remains steadfastly committed to supporting the academic endeavors of young leaders, viewing intellectual development as a critical element of cultivating the human capital necessary to drive Ukraine's future forward.



Academic Triumphs for UA Experts Scholars

Anna Kryzhanivska and Kateryna Opanasenko, young leaders from the NGO UA Experts, have been named laureates of the prestigious "Zavtra.ua" nationwide scholarship program by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation. Out of 314 applicants from 75 Ukrainian universities, they emerged among the final 60 winners after a rigorous three-stage selection process. Anna's research analyzed the future of international human rights law amidst the Russo-Ukrainian war under the guidance of Associate Professor Albina Basysta. Meanwhile, Kateryna's work, supervised by Professor and UA Experts member Olha Shpakovych, investigated the role of diplomacy in shaping international legal norms.

Adding to the organization's achievements, Kateryna Opanasenko also secured third place in the inaugural All-Ukrainian Student Scientific Essay Competition on expelling Russia from the UN. Held under the international #UnRussiaUN initiative, the contest was co-organized by the Pylyp Orlyk Foundation and the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, bringing together 14 top finalists from across the country.



Reflecting on her success, Kateryna noted that the competition provided a vital bridge between academic theory and practical diplomacy, requiring participants to navigate geopolitical realities and the institutional egoism of major powers. For UA Experts, these dual triumphs underscore the organization's success in cultivating a new generation of legal professionals capable of defending Ukraine's national interests on the world stage.

Anna Kryzhanivska and Kateryna Opanasenko, experts of the NGO "UA Experts"



UA Experts Leadership Club

Explores the Philosophy of Success and Lifelong Leadership at the UCCI



Gennadiy Chyzhykov,
UCCI President

The UA Experts Leadership Club has successfully continued its signature series of mentorship meetings with an exclusive high-profile visit to the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 21 April 2026. Club members, including promising students specializing in international relations, international law, and international business at the Educational and Sci-

entific Institute of International Relations of Kyiv National University and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, had the unique opportunity to engage in a candid, informal dialogue with UCCI President Gennadiy Chyzhykov. Given the students' academic backgrounds and future career paths, exploring the practical operations, economic diplomacy, and global reach of the Chamber proved to be highly relevant and timely.

The central theme of the gathering revolved around the comprehensive philosophy of lifelong leadership, fo-

Gennadiy Chyzhykov,
UCCI President and
Anna Kryzhanivska,
Expert of the NGO
"UA Experts", Head
of the UA Experts
Leadership Club



cusing specifically on the delicate art of balancing professional success, personal happiness, and physical well-being. Sharing numerous inspiring stories from his extensive career, Mr. Chyzhykov deeply impressed the audience by demonstrating how an individual can simultaneously manage multi-faceted responsibilities across entirely different sectors with peak efficiency. He emphasized that among the most critical forms of human capital a person can possess are reputation and dignity. He reminded the young leaders that everyone, regardless of their cur-



rent position or field, should actively strive to cultivate and support a community of fulfilled individuals around them.

The interactive format allowed the ambitious students to ask a wide range of questions, sparking deep reflections on strategic planning and long-term personal development. Participants, including student Anna Revenko, noted that they were particularly impacted by the concept of drafting a structured strategy for one's entire life. This approach is based on the powerful principle that every major milestone or victory should not lead to complacency, but rather intensify an individual's commitment to continuous self-improvement and rigorous work on themselves.

For years, the NGO UA Experts has maintained a strong, active partnership with the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, focusing heavily on developing human potential and mentoring the next generation of Ukrainian professionals. The organization extends its sincere gratitude to the Chamber and Mr. Chyzhykov for the warm reception, invaluable insights, and the continued opportunity to co-create such impactful learning experiences for young leaders.



Development of a Case Management System in the Sphere of GBV:

The Start of an Intersectoral Dialogue in Ukraine

On June 18, 2026, a presentation and discussion of approaches to managing cases related to gender-based violence (GBV) took place in Kyiv, with the participation of key stakeholders and decision-makers in the fields of social policy, human rights protection, and survivor assistance.

The event was organized by the NGO "UA Experts", the Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

The event served as an important platform for professional dialogue among representatives of state institutions, international organizations, the expert community, and civil society regarding the formation of an effective case management system in the sphere of combating gender-based violence in Ukraine.



Oksana Nechytailo, National Coordinator of the NGO "UA Experts"



The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Social Policy, the National Social Service of Ukraine, the State Service of Ukraine for Children, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as the expert and public communities. First Deputy Minister of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine Liudmyla Shemelynets delivered a welcoming address to the participants, emphasizing the importance of strengthening inter-agency cooperation and implementing modern support mechanisms for survivors of violence.

During the thematic panels, both national and international experiences in

organizing case management were presented. National expert Rozaliia Hakh presented conceptual approaches to developing a case management methodology aimed at ensuring comprehensive, human-centric, and safe support for survivors.

Participants paid special attention to international experience. Dr. Bidita Jauhar Tithi shared practices on safe data management during the management of gender-based violence cases, which is one of the key elements of effective case management and the protection of survivors' rights. UNFPA Program Analyst Nadiia Prokopenko presented the roadmap and vision for the further implementation of the case management system in Ukraine.



the corresponding social service, and preparing proposals for amendments to current legislation and regulatory acts.

The development of an effective case management system is a necessary condition for ensuring a comprehensive, safe, and human-centric approach to supporting survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. That is precisely why the consolidation of efforts by the state, international partners, and civil society must become the foundation for creating an accessible and high-quality social service system in every community in Ukraine.

The event became not only a platform for discussing current challenges but also a starting point for systemic changes aimed at strengthening the protection of the rights and safety of survivors of gender-based violence.

The participants of the discussion came to the shared conclusion that, to date, the case management system in the sphere of gender-based violence in Ukraine remains fragmented and lacks a sufficient regulatory framework. This problem is particularly acute at the level of territorial communities, where the absence of unified standards and procedures often complicates the provision of timely and comprehensive assistance to survivors.

At the same time, the meeting became an important step toward forming a shared vision of the future system. As a result of the event, state institutions, UNFPA, and the NGO "UA Experts" have commenced coordinated work on improving the case management methodology, developing standards for



Brief overview

Management of Cases Related to Gender-Based Violence



Snizhana Kushch,
Chief National
Coordinator of the
NGO "UA Experts"

What is Case Management

In accordance with international approaches, GBV case management is a structured, survivor-centered method of organizing assistance for a person who has suffered from gender-based violence, while strictly adhering to the principles of safety, confidentiality, informed consent, non-discrimination, and the prevention of secondary traumatization.

According to the analysis conducted by the expert, Ukrainian legislation currently does not systematically use the term "GBV case management" in the same sense as it is applied in international GBV case management practice.

Instead, the Ukrainian legal framework utilizes concepts that are similar in content:

- case management (leading a case);
- assessing the needs of an individual/family;
- individual plan for the provision of social services;
- social support (accompaniment);
- inter-agency cooperation and referral;
- management of cases involving domestic violence and/or gender-based violence.

The primary legal framework for case management is the Law of Ukraine

"On Social Services" dated January 17, 2019, No. 2671-VIII, which defines the concept of case management as a method of providing social services that involves the execution of sequential actions, determined by Article 18 of this Law. These actions are aimed at assessing the presence/absence of difficult life circumstances or the risk of an individual/family falling into difficult life circumstances and, if present, resolving the individual case to remove the individual/family from such difficult life circumstances. This process involves cooperation between a social manager, a social work specialist, a social worker, the recipient of social services, and other professionals engaged to provide support to the social service recipient.

As of now, it is important to take into account that the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) No. 587 dated June 1, 2020, has expired. Instead, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated January 14, 2026, No. 64 "Certain Issues of Organizing the Provision of Social Services" is in force. This resolution approved the Procedure for organizing the provision of social services, case management, and determining the number of social managers responsible for ensuring and conducting case management.

Snizhana Kushch emphasized that there is only a general model of case management in the sphere of social

services, which is an important nuance for analyzing the management of GBV cases.

The general model applies to individuals/families in difficult life circumstances and can cover survivors of domestic violence (DV), gender-based violence (GBV), and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

However, it does not constitute a specialized GBV case management standard.

While the Law and the Procedure contain elements of case management, they do not detail the specific characteristics of GBV, such as:

- safety planning for the survivor;
- specialized assessment of the risk of repeated violence;
- rules for confidential inter-agency information exchange;
- informed consent for referral;
- supervision for the case manager;
- case closure specifically according to GBV case management standards;
- prohibition of practices that could create a risk of secondary traumatization.

What the Audit of Specialized Services Showed

The national monitoring of specialized support services for survivors of domestic violence and/or gender-based violence, conducted by the National Social Service of Ukraine, directly confirms that elements of case management are already factually applied, but unevenly, fragmentedly, and without an established standard.

In the practice of specialized services, there is an issue not only with the regulatory framework but also with the operational processes of working with survivors.

The monitoring methodology directly included parameters such as “processes”—the practice of data collection and working with survivors—as well as “referrals”—the service’s participation in referral mechanisms—into the capacity assessment of the services.

These specific parameters are key for case management.

Services that had no beneficiaries in 2024 almost completely lack established procedures for working with survivors and for data collection and analysis.

The monitoring shows that a portion of the specialists underwent training on working with survivors of domestic violence/gender-based violence and case management, but specialized training regarding CRSV and working with children is significantly weaker.

This implies that case management practice exists but relies heavily on

trainers, and advisory services have separate internal procedures, but they lack a unified structure, are not mandatory, and are not applied systematically.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE NEED TO ADOPT DRAFT REGULATORY ACTS

At the event, the expert concluded that the adoption of draft regulatory acts that would define a general methodology for case management, forms for assessing the needs of survivors, and risk assessment procedures is necessary for transitioning from fragmented response practices to a systematic, survivor-centered, and standardized model of assistance.



training supported by international partners rather than on a unified state training system.

The audit showed that a portion of the services possess individual elements of case management: initial informing, needs assessment, referral, internal documentation, inter-agency cooperation, accompaniment of the survivor, and the provision of psychological support.

At the same time, these elements are not equally developed across all types of services and are not applied as a single standardized algorithm for GBV case management.

Legal analysis directly records that individual needs and risk assessments are not established as a unified and mandatory standard in the work of all specialized services; shelters, day cen-

ters, and advisory services have separate internal procedures, but they lack a unified structure, are not mandatory, and are not applied systematically. This also aligns with international standards, particularly the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, Directive 2012/29/EU, Directive (EU) 2024/1385, and international approaches to GBV case management, which provide for individual needs assessment, risk assessment, safe referral, coordination of services, confidentiality, and the prevention of secondary traumatization of the survivor.

The adoption of these regulatory acts is not merely a technical update of subordinate regulations, but a tool for the institutional strengthening of the survivor protection system, increasing the quality of social services, unifying the practices of specialized services, and fulfilling Ukraine’s international obligations in the field of preventing and combating violence.

National Round Table to Strengthen Inter-Agency Cooperation in Combating Domestic Violence

On June 25, 2026, the NGO UA Experts proudly co-organized a comprehensive and vital round table discussion titled "Inter-Agency Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence: Practical Challenges and Solutions." The primary goal of this landmark gathering was to conduct a transparent, critical analysis of the operational obstacles faced by frontline responders and to draft unified, actionable recommendations. The event was designed to

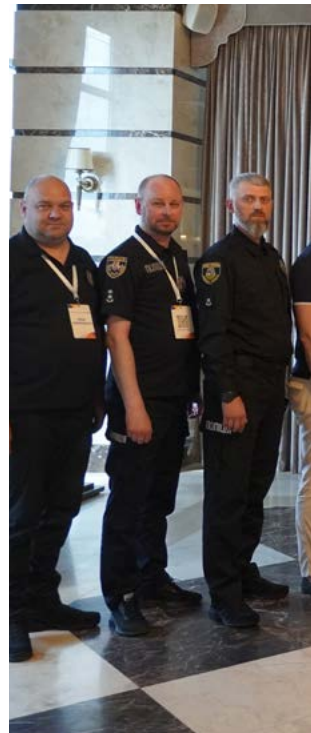
ensure that every relevant state organ, judiciary branch, and support service operates as a synchronized and cohesive mechanism dedicated to the holistic protection of survivors. Organized in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Higher School of Public Administration, and the National Training Center, the forum created a unique environment for cross-sectoral synergy.

Participants of the Round Table "Interagency Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence: Practical Challenges and Solutions"



The event was moderated by Viktor Valchuk, a leading jurist and national expert on gender-based and domestic violence. The program kicked off with an analytical panel discussion focused on identifying the structural and systemic gaps within the current national response framework. Prominent decision-makers shared their field perspectives, including Yuliia Lykhach representing the Higher School of Public Administration, Nataliia Bohdanova from the Ministry of Social Policy, Serhii Aloskin and Ihor Speranskyi from the National Police of Ukraine, Iryna Shurkhno from the Office of the Prosecutor General, and Judge Vadym Kuliebiakin from the Chemerovtsi District Court.

Experts of the NGO "UA Experts"



This diverse panel allowed participants to examine the shortfalls of current protocols from law enforcement, judicial, and social policy angles simultaneously.

Following the opening panel, the event transitioned into an intense collaborative workshop where participants were divided into mixed, inter-agency working groups. By breaking down professional silos, representatives from law enforcement, courts, and ministries worked side-by-side to dissect complex, real-world case studies, pinpointing exactly where institutional communication and referral mechanisms slow down. Through structured brainstorming sessions, these teams mapped out concrete solutions to circumvent current friction points within the existing legal framework. The final session successfully consolidated these group findings into a unified package of priority recommendations. This strategic document will serve as a foundational blueprint for upcoming regulatory updates and legislative improvements, steering Ukraine closer to a seamless, survivor-centered defense system.



The European Child Guarantee

International Experience of ECG Implementation



European social protection standards are moving closer to Ukrainian realities following the successful completion of a three-part series of international bilateral webinars focused on implementing the European Child Guarantee (ECG).

This intensive knowledge-sharing marathon marks an important step toward adapting top foreign social practices to Ukrainian conditions during the country's ongoing European integration. The online sessions were organized by the Coordinating Center for the Development of Family Upbringing and Child Care, with the support of UNICEF Ukraine, the German development bank KfW, and the European Union. The team at the NGO "UA Experts" served as an essential partner, providing full

technical coordination to facilitate this professional dialogue. Each working session opened with remarks from Iryna Tuliakova, Head of the Coordinating Center, and Karl Henrik Ingrid, Child Protection Specialist and EU Integration Advisor at UNICEF.

The first webinar in the series kicked off on June 10 with a comprehensive analysis of Lithuania's experience. Key-note speaker Kristina Stepanova, head of the child rights group at the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and

Labor, delivered an honest review of her country's transition from political declarations to real community-level actions. Ukrainian specialists explored Lithuania's institutional architecture, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, human resource planning, and the strategic deployment of ESF+ financial tools. Participants also studied the building of transparent monitoring and reporting structures for the European Commission, which are crucial for overcoming fragmentation within the social welfare system.

ods for overcoming operational barriers when supporting vulnerable groups, and strategies for ensuring the long-term sustainability of social services.

The final webinar of the series, held on June 29, explored Estonia's unique digital and social models. Alongside Hanna Vseviiv, Deputy Secretary General for Social Affairs of the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs, and Project Manager Kadri Kasterpalu, Ukrainian analysts examined Estonia's Action Plan and future development priorities. A presentation by Mari Sarv generated significant interest, as she introduced an innovative Child Well-being Dashboard that leverages modern data management solutions to make precise, real-time administrative decisions. Additionally, advisor Heidi Paabort shared successful case studies regarding Youth Guarantee implementation and the integration of teenagers into the labor market.

The conclusion of this webinar marathon equips the Ukrainian expert community with the EU's best operational tools. At "UA Experts", we are confident that studying these models of data management, funding synergy, and inter-ministerial cooperation will significantly accelerate the qualitative transformation of Ukrainian legislation, ultimately anchoring a safe, stable, and European future for every child in Ukraine.



The cycle continued on June 22 with a webinar focusing on the strategic approaches of the Czech Republic. Representatives from the Czech Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs—including David Karl, Aleksandra Lacinova, and Kristina Kotalova—presented their step-by-step transition from strategic planning to municipal implementation. The experts focused on the practical operations of multidisciplinary teams within local communities, the expansion of early childhood care services, meth-

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