Ukraine in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle

Seminar Programme

Date: **12 November** 2026 (Thursday)
Time: **13:00–17:30**
Hybrid /Zoom online
Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/93yQ5BqFTFyTR6Ru0-drTw#/registration
Venue: *University of Pretoria, South Africa, and Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University, Ukraine.*

13.00 - 13.10	**Welcome** Prof Chris Isike, University of Pretoria Prof Oksana Chernysh, Vice-Rector Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University
13.10 - 13.30	**Recollections of South African Anti-Apartheid Activists Who Studied in Ukraine** Dr Bheki Langa, former South African Ambassador, student at the Preparatory Faculty of the V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (1977-1978) Pitso Lebooa, Alumni of Odesa National 'I.I. Mecnikov' University (1979-1984)
Section 1 **Presentations - 15 min, followed by 20 min discussion after section 1**	
13.30 – 13.45	**Ukraine and South Africa's Anti-Apartheid Struggle: Areas of Engagement, Perspectives and Sources** Dzvinka Kachur, Ukrainian Association of South Africa
13.45 – 14.00	**The First Umkhonto we Sizwe Trainees in Soviet Ukraine: Crimea, Military Training and Liberation** Prof Thulasizwe Simpson, University of Toronto
14.00 – 14.15	**Ukrainian SSR Role in the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid: Diplomacy and International Solidarity** Prof Andrii Shevchuk, Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University
14.15 – 14.30	**The role of the Ukrainian SSR in the international movement against apartheid in South African sport** Prof Cobus Rademeyer, Sol Plaatje University

14.30 – 14.45	**Different Forms of European Support for South Africa's Anti-Apartheid Struggle** Dr Sven Botha, University of Pretoria
14.45 - 15.00	**Narratives of Anti-Apartheid Solidarity: South Africa in Ukrainian Academic Research and Media (1955–1994) and Perceptions of Ukraine's Historical Contribution in South Africa since 2022** Yevheniia Mikhnovska, Researcher, ADASTRA Think Tank
15.00 – 15.20	**Discussion**
15.20 - 15.30	**Break**
Section 2 **Presentations - 10 min, followed by 20 min discussion after section 2**	
15.30 – 15.40	**Distant Relatives: The relationship and commonalities between Ukraine and South Africa. Looking at the Apartheid era and post-Apartheid era** Manuel Makafane, University of the Witwatersrand
15.40 - 15.50	**Evolution of International Responses from Anti-Apartheid Sanctions to Accountability for Human Rights Violations in Ukraine** Prof Olha Hordiichuk and Mykhailo Lukysha, Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University
15.50 – 16.00	**Reflections on Human Rights in the Soviet Union and Ukrainian SSR and the Anti-Apartheid Struggle** Prof Olexiy Haran, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
16.00 - 16.10	**Ukraine's Role in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle: International Law, Human Rights, and the Contradictions of Socialist Solidarity** Mlondolozi Mvikweni, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu
16.10- 16.20	**Discussion**
Section 3 **Students' roundtable in Zhytomyr**	
16.30 – 17.30	**South Africa Before the Mid-20th Century: Indigenous Peoples, Colonisation and State Formation** Olena Vasylieva (MV-3)

	The Apartheid Regime in South Africa: Origins, Key Legislation and Everyday Life Arina Kohut (MV-5) **Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress in the Struggle Against Apartheid** Daryna Vashchenko (MV-5) **The United Nations Against Apartheid: International Condemnation, Sanctions and the Work of the Special Committee** Sofiia Kubiuk (MV-5) **The Sporting Boycott of South Africa: How International Sport Became a Tool in the Struggle Against Apartheid** Vitalii Romashevskyi (MV-5) **The International Isolation of the Apartheid Regime: An Analysis of the Ukrainian SSR's Diplomatic Initiatives within the UN Special Committee against Apartheid** Anna Osetska (MV-5) **Public Diplomacy and Media Campaigns in the Ukrainian SSR in Support of the Struggle Against Apartheid** Anastasiia Nehovelova (MV-5) **Ukraine and South Africa: The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and Contemporary Cooperation** Anastasiia Krynytska (MV-3)

This seminar is organised by the Ukrainian Association of South Africa (UAZA), University of Pretoria, Centre for Sustainability Transition at the Stellenbosch University, Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University, and Sol Plaatje University. With the support of the Ukrainian Institute.