

UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Annual Report | April 2023 - March 2024



*Established in 2017
NPO 189-705
PBO 930060173*



MESSAGE FROM THE UAZA TEAM

7 years Ukrainian Association of South Africa (UAZA) unites Ukrainians and South Africans living in South Africa. The organisation has almost 200 members from Gauteng, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Limpopo, Western and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa. Our mission is to be a collaborative association based on rich Ukrainian cultural heritage that promotes networks between Ukrainians and South Africans for mutual development, increased awareness and inner growth of individuals and societies. UAZA actively cooperates with a wide range of organisations in South Africa and Ukraine. UAZA has been an associate member of Ukrainian World Congress since 2018.

After the Russian unjust and unprovoked full scale invasion of Ukraine, on the 24th of February, UAZA is aiming to respond to this war by:

- building solidarity movements with civil society organisations, academics and other organisations; and being a voice of Ukraine in SA independent media; and
- providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine and supporting those whose lives were changed forever by the war.

UAZA serves as an agent for first contact, information and an initiator of cooperation for parliamentarians from both Ukraine and South Africa. Since the full scale Russian war on Ukraine, UAZA is regularly meeting with South African MP's of different political parties to inform about the situation in Ukraine and supported the visits of two Ukrainian civil society delegations to South Africa.

UAZA in partnership with the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation (DLTLF) have been hosting a series of Dialogues "Just Peace Talk".

Ukrainian expert Maksym Yakovlyev from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Oleksandra Romantseva from the Center for Civil Liberties, Olena Lapenko from DiXi Group, and Olexiy Haran, a professor of Comparative Politics at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy visited South Africa to build a dialogue between our countries on the level of civil society and to convey the truth about the events in Ukraine.

In 2023, while larger humanitarian institutions covered basic needs for survival, the need for psychological support of the population became even more crucial. Major Ukrainian cities are still bombed daily, and people are not only dying from missiles and drones but also from panic attacks, unable to deal with the harsh reality of Russia's war. UAZA partnered with the Voices of Children Organization, which is providing psychological support to children affected by the war.

March 2024, the statement by 13 South African civil society organisations has called to return Ukrainian children by 1 June 2024, International Children's Day, celebrated worldwide to recognise and protect the rights of children.

This year is the election to the UAZA Executive Committee - we wish good luck to all candidates and we are looking forward to connect with the new members of the EC.

Thanks to you — our community of supporters — we have been able to build closer ties with local NPOs, academics, artists and businesses, and host 49 events to feel the Ukrainian spirit and vice versa.

Дякуємо = Thank you! = Ngiyabonga = Dankie = Enkosi = Ke a leboga = Ndo livhuwa

With love, UAZA Team

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEAM!



SVITLANA SHEREMET

Vice-President of Cultural Projects



ANZHELA SEVENSTER

Treasurer



ANASTASIA KARPESO

Secretary



LESYA KARPENKO

Representative in Gauteng



DZVINKA KACHUR

Honorary President



VITA VALKINA

Representative in KZN



KATERYNA FEDKINA

Representative in Durban



OLGA KONONENKO

Representative in Cape Town



JANA FOURE

Representative in Johannesburg

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT



Challenges

- Organisation of the fundraising events
- Strategic choices around activities and systematic processes of its realisation
- Diversified sources of fundings for the projects

Executive Committee

- 8 Members
- from 4 provinces
- 9 Minutes (monthly meetings)
- 2 Strategic sessions (Apr 2023 and Jan 2024)

Sub-Committees

- Info UAZA
- Ukrainian School development
- Cultural Cooperation (**new**)
- Fundraising
- Economic Cooperation

Social Media

- Website
- Monthly Newsletter
- YouTube Channel
- 5 social media platform
- 11 WhatsApp groups

Branches in

- Cape Town
- Durban
- Pretoria
- Johannesburg
- Gqeberha

Audience growth

	1068	28% ↑
	185	7% ↑
	3642	10.3% ↑
	1605	9,7% ↑
	203	45% ↑
	169	70% ↑

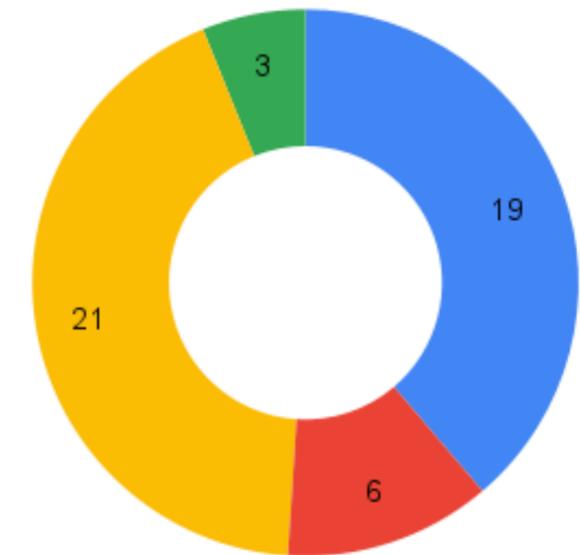
KEY INDICATORS



EVENTS

49 events in Apr 23 - Mar 24

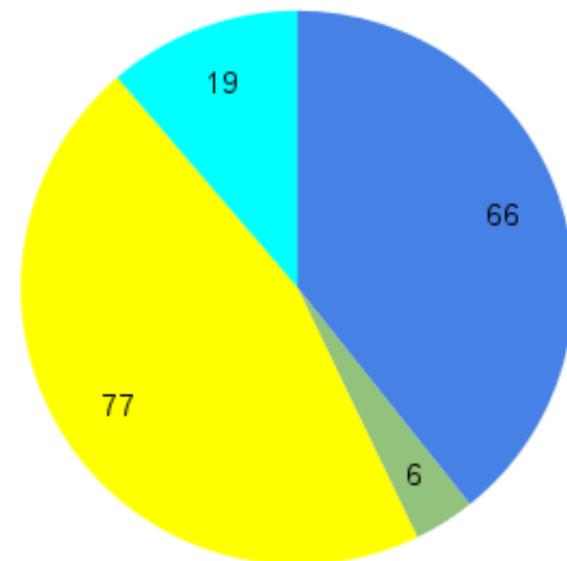
- Gauteng (Johannesburg, Pretoria)
- KZN (Durban)
- Western Cape (Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Paarl, Wellington, Grabouw)
- online



Membership

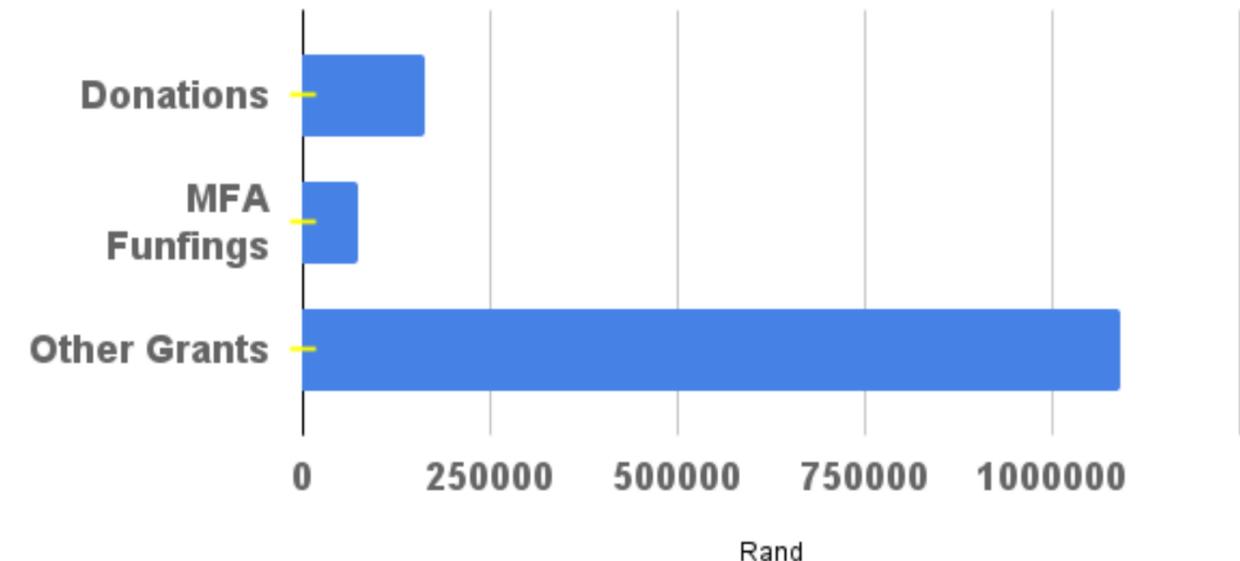
168 currant members (+9.5% in Apr 23 - Mar 24)

- Associate
- Honorary member
- Full
- Junior



FUNDINGS

9 projects in 2023 and 5 projects in 2024



UAZA OBJECTIVES

- To promote cooperation between South Africa and Ukraine.
- To unite and support Ukrainians of all generations and to be a valid representation of Ukrainian community in South Africa.
- To promote Ukrainian culture, language and other information about Ukraine in South Africa.
- To support and promote the territorial integrity, national identity, pride, security, humanitarian projects and economic prosperity of Ukraine.
- To cooperate with governments, nations, organizations, and individuals, to accomplish the above goals in the spirit of peace, freedom, equality and justice.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ACCORDING TO UAZA OBJECTIVES

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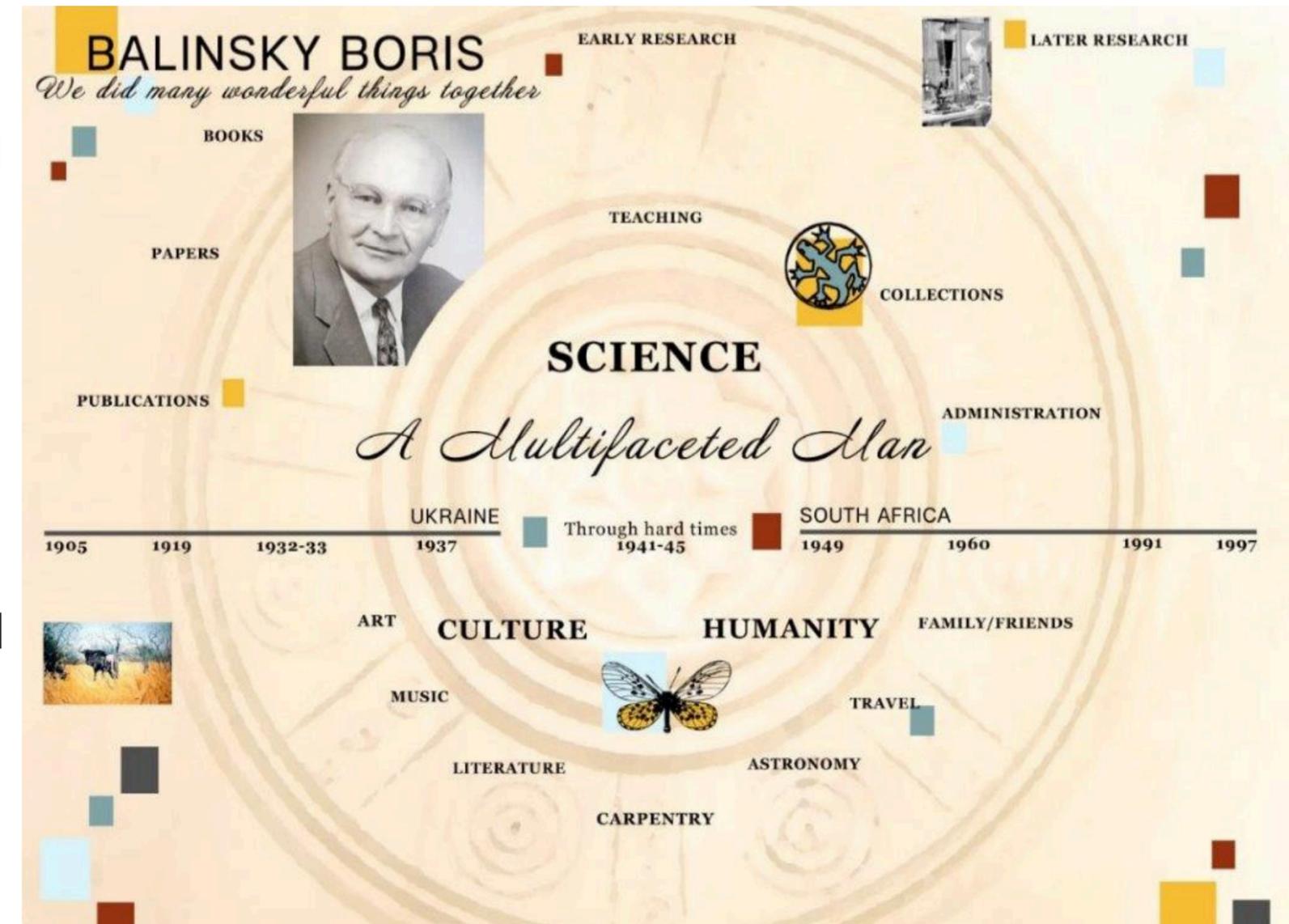
ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Balinsky Symposium | April 2024 University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Boris Balinsky's groundbreaking research in embryology and evolutionary biology continues to inspire generations of scientists worldwide.

2-day Symposium served as a tribute to Boris Balinsky enduring legacy, bringing together esteemed presenters from Wits, Ukraine, and the international scientific communities.

The records of the event are available on [YouTube](#).



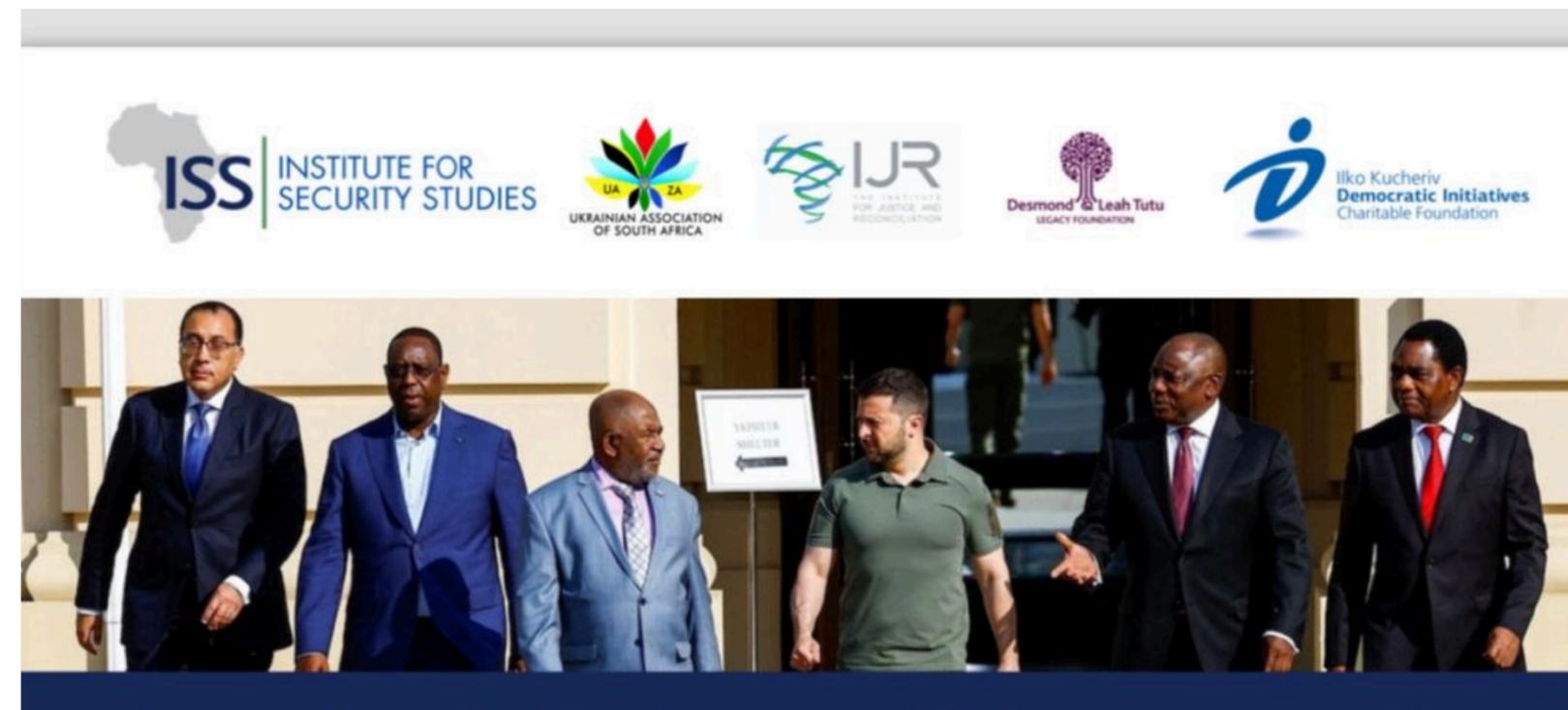


ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Seminars on Regional Security Architecture, Nuclear Safety and Children's Rights | March 2024

The event brought together over 20 South African and Ukrainian academic experts who have collaborated on three distinct issues underpinning the Ukraine Peace Formula: regional security, nuclear safety, and the forcible deportation of children. The event centred on extracting lessons from the conflict and exploring avenues for enhancing peace on the continent and beyond.

The records of the event are available on [YouTube](#).





CULTURAL COOPERATION

Dance Performance “We Stand for Freedom”

Ukrainian and South African artists and activists call for action towards a just peace with a dance performance titled “We Stand for Freedom”:

- 15 shows since 2023
- in 4 major cities Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban
- 1 music album by Cecil Etc on all major media platforms
- 2 the most influential SA’ festivals have selected the dance performance for their programs 2024
- over 1000 viewers were attended.



The records of the event are available on YouTube.





CULTURAL COOPERATION

Supporting Art Residence | March 2024 Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg

UAZA and Ukrainian Institute in partnership with the Nirox Foundation and Democracy Work Foundation organised the Art Residence where Ukrainian and South Africa artists during one month created together. As outcome:

- Music concert for peace “Free the children” by Ukrainian and South African artists on the Human Rights Day;
- Sculpture “In search of a lost home” by Ukrainian artist Sergiy Petlyuk;
- Video “Free The Children Documentary” in support of a global effort to free the children of Ukraine held captive by Russia;
- Dialogue on the Role of Arts in Promoting International Solidarity with Victims of Armed Conflict - The Case to Free the Children of Ukraine.



The Soil - SA band, participants of the “Free the children” music concert for peace 2024

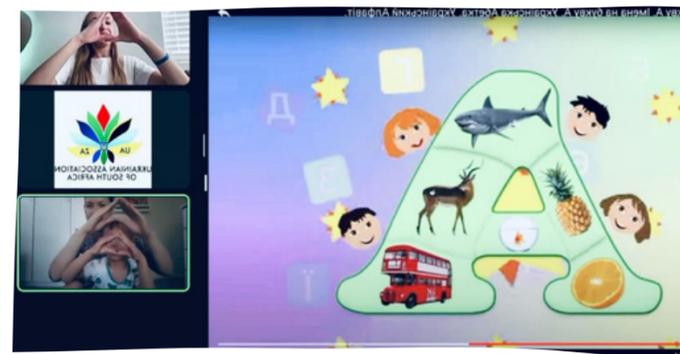


UKRAINIAN SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA

annual event since 2016

Our mission is to use Ukrainian culture and language as a space for communication and personal growth of Ukrainians and foreigners of different ages.

- 30 students (from 3+ yrs)
- 3 provinces (Gauteng, Western Cape and KZN)
- 5 offline events to celebrate Ukrainian culture
- every week Ukrainian language classes (online)
- free library for students and their parents



Gauteng Dec 2024



Western Cape Dec 2024



KZN Dec 2024



ONE DAY CAMP “UKRAINIAN CIRCLE”

August 2023



Ukrainians celebrated Ukrainian Independence and the global fight for freedom.

- 50 families (approx. 100 adults and children)
- in 2 provinces (Western Cape and KZN)
- conducted various Ukrainian culture master classes on making knotted dolls and flower crowns, participated in the fun science show
- the main streets of the cities of Paarl and Wellington has been decorated with yellow and blue colours



The event was organised with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine



“10 FACTS ABOUT UKRAINE”

June 2023

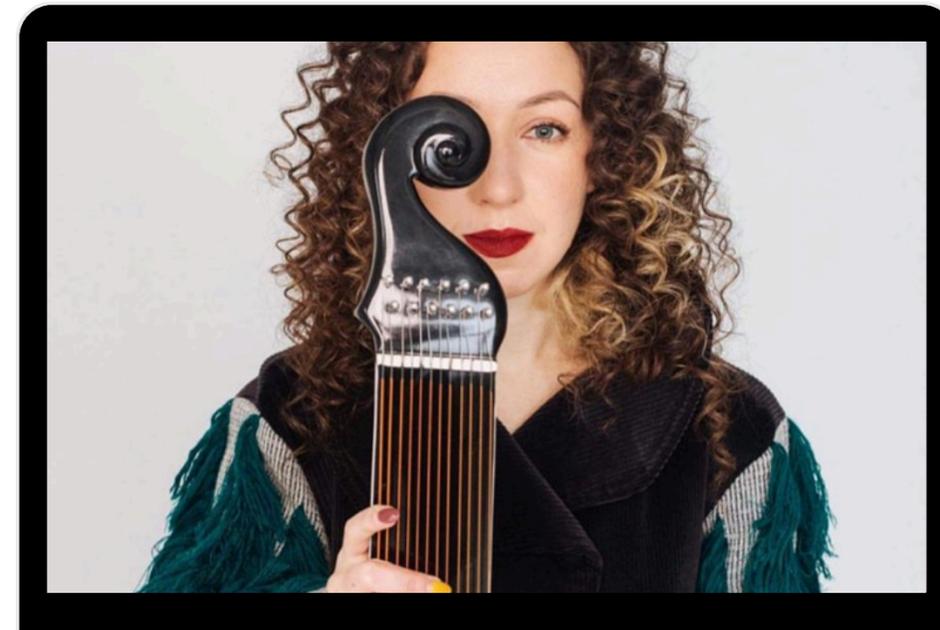
Video uncovers 10 facts that unite South Africa and Ukraine, showcasing the fascinating connections between these two captivating nations.



“UKRAINIAN FOLK ON 56 STRINGS”

March 2023

Music concerts of the traditional Ukrainian instrument Bandura by Anastasia Anastasiya Voytyuk were organised in Pretoria and Cape Town.



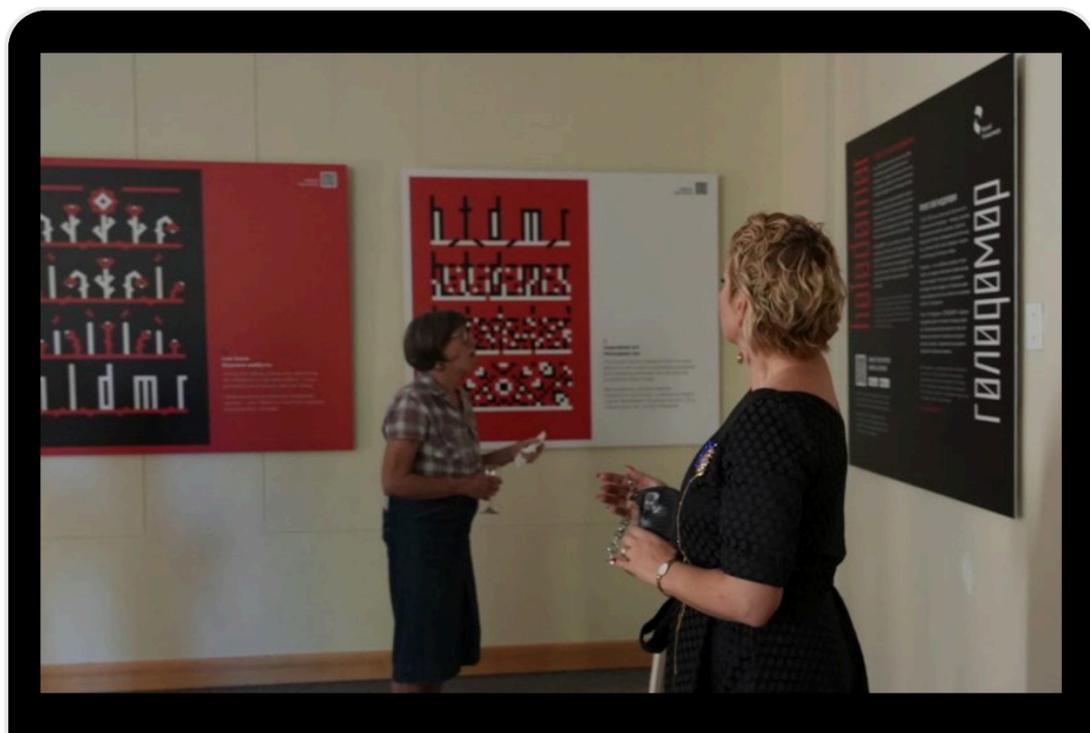


COMMEMORATION THE VICTIMS OF HOLODOMOR

Annual event since 2017

In November 2023, the **Holodomor exhibition by Yuliya Fedorovych** was opened at the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre to reflect on **the 90th anniversary** of Holodomor, a tragic chapter that profoundly impacted the lives of millions of Ukrainians.

In a series of posters, Ukrainian artist Yuliya Fedorovych tells the story of the Holodomor in her own way – she defines the key prerequisites, facts and consequences of the tragedy of the 1930s, putting them together in a new visual language. Each of the posters is also available in augmented reality, in which every fact of the past appears live.



The event was organised with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine

The Holodomor exhibition is planning to be open for public in Durban (July) and Johannesburg (November) 2024.



HUMANITARIAN AID

Fundraising companies since 2022



- **The charity soccer match** organised by Sango a student of the Ukrainian School in SA and his friend Harry to help children in Ukraine (Cape Town) | May 2023
- **Stall at the Bryanston Market** (Johannesburg) | Apr, Aug and Sep 2023
- **Charity Fun Science Show** (Durban) | May 2023
- **Stall at the Rosebank Markets** (Johannesburg) | Aug 2023
- **Stall at the “Taste of Belgium”** (Cape Town) | Dec 2023 and March 2024



SERIES OF DIALOGUES “JUST PEACE TALK”

since August 2022

In 2023, UAZA in partnership with the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation (DLTLF) have been hosting a series of Dialogues “Just Peace Talk” to bring together shared experiences and to promote conversations beyond the geo-political debate on a common humanity with the people on the ground:

- **Standing up to War Crimes: Stories from Ukraine’s frontline** (speakers Adriana Susak-Arekhta, Assault Trooper, UAF; Kateryna Rashevskya, Legal Expert, Regional Center for Human Rights)
- **Interfaith Prayer for Just Peace** brought together leaders from a multi-denominational community, across Christian denominations, the Jewish community, and the Muslim community to give voice to a collective desire for peace and justice around the world, and specifically in Ukraine.



Interfaith Prayer for Just Peace, Aug 2023



MOVIE SCREENING

The Oscar-winning documentary "20 Days in Mariupol" was screened in Pretoria and Cape Town with opening remarks from Ambassador of Ukraine Liubov Abravitova, Third President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko and Janet Jobson, CEO of Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation.

By seeing the shots of horrible war crimes in the film South Africans were able to witness the devastating atrocities stemming from Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, as well, as understand the necessity of joint action among just peace for Ukraine. This screening serves as a powerful reminder of the dire consequences of war - the broadcast was a somber reflection on the urgent need for bringing Russia to accountability.

The image shows two promotional posters for the film screening of "20 Days in Mariupol".

The top poster is for a screening in Cape Town. It features the text: "THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, THE UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE TUTU FOUNDATION INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO A SPECIAL SCREENING OF 20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL". The date and time are "THURSDAY, MARCH 28 AT 6:00 PM". The venue is "THE LABIA THEATRE, 68 ORANGE STREET, GARDENS, CAPE TOWN". It also includes a description of the film and logos for the U.S. Consulate General, Ukrainian Association of South Africa, and Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation.

The bottom poster is for a screening in Pretoria. It features the text: "The Embassy of Ukraine in partnership with other diplomatic missions cordially invites you to a FILM SCREENING". The date and time are "Wednesday 28 February 18:00". The venue is "JAVETT CENTER AUDITORIUM". It includes a QR code for registration and logos for the Embassy of Ukraine, Finnish Embassy, and other diplomatic missions.



MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AND PEACEFUL PROTESTS

#SaveUkrainianChildren - Ukrainians, living in South Africa, have recorded videos in Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu as well as in English to join the celebration of the Heritage day and to use an opportunity to raise awareness about the forcefully deported children from Ukraine.

#BringOurKidsBackUA - protests in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg to commemorate 10 years of the Russian military invasion and 2 years of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine and to call on Russian army withdrawal from Ukraine and enforcing our voice in the name of more than 19500 Ukrainian children, who were forcefully taken away from their families and have to be returned.



#BRICS - peaceful demonstrations in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg calling on the world leaders attending the BRICS summit to demand that Russian authorities stop the act of aggression against Ukraine and end attacks on civilians now (Amnesty International and Helen Suzman Foundation, S.D.C.E.A.)

#NuclearFreeSA - peaceful march in Cape Town on the six years since SAFCEI and Earthlife Africa Johannesburg blocked the government's secret trillion-rand nuclear deal, remembering the Chernobyl disaster, and calling Russia to remove its military forces from the territory of Zaporizhzhia NPP.

#BoycottStPetersburgBallet - protests in Cape Town and Johannesburg to call on the South African Art and Cultural Institutions to stop any cultural cooperation with Russia and its artists.

TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENTS, NATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS, TO ACCOMPLISH THE ABOVE GOALS IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE, FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE



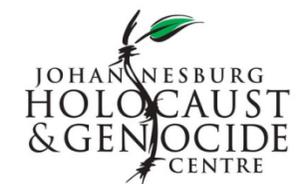
PARTNERS



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



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