

UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Annual Report

April 2024 - March 2025



Established in 2017

NPO 189-705

PBO 930060173

MESSAGE FROM THE UAZA TEAM

This year, we marked many meaningful milestones. One of them was the opening of a Ukrainian guide at the **Apartheid Museum of South Africa** on the **Freedom Month**—a tribute to the long and painful struggle for dignity, equality, and democracy. We were reminded that the values underpinning South Africa's journey to freedom resonate deeply with our own: the belief that justice is worth every sacrifice, and that freedom must be defended, even in the darkest times.

President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy's historic first visit to South Africa** offered a powerful reflection on this shared legacy: "What unites us is our will for freedom, independence, and respect—values both our nations hold dear."

These are not abstract ideals—they are lived experiences. From the courageous resistance of South Africans during apartheid to the unwavering defence of sovereignty by Ukrainians today, we continue to bear witness to both the cost—and the worth—of standing up for human rights.

We are proud that two Ukrainians, **Volodymyr Udovenko** and **Volodymyr Kravets**, are honoured at **Freedom Park** among global defenders of justice. Their names remind us that the fight for freedom transcends borders.

Over the past year, **UAZA** has worked tirelessly to strengthen the bonds between our nations. Through cultural celebrations, exhibitions, youth forums, memorial events, and advocacy for human rights, we have amplified Ukrainian voices across South Africa—from **Cape Town** and **Durban** to **Pretoria** and **Soweto**.

We commemorated the **Holodomor** with dignity, stood firm in calling for the **return of Ukrainian children**, and took part in international dialogues on peace and justice.

We partnered with South African and Ukrainian institutions—from grassroots organisations to government bodies—to foster not just awareness, but deep and meaningful solidarity.

Whether through **poetry festivals in Durban**, **exhibitions at Constitution Hill**, or the deeply moving documentary **Family Album**, we told the truth of Ukraine's past and present—and invited South Africans to bear witness alongside us.

But we also celebrated life:

- Our children learned and laughed together at the **Ukrainian School of South Africa**.
- Young voices were empowered through **forums on resilience and recovery**.
- And Ukrainian athletes, artists, and leaders made their presence known at **international events** across the country.

At the **14th Annual Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture**, Nobel laureate **Oleksandra Matviichuk** reminded us of Archbishop Tutu's timeless words: "**Each of us is only a drop. But together, we are the ocean.**"

Let us hold onto that truth—that our strength lies in unity, in building bridges between our histories and our hopes, and in our shared commitment to the universal principles of **freedom, dignity, and peace**.

Thank you for being part of this year's journey. Thank you for your time, your courage, and your voice.

Let us continue to grow, to stand together, and to lead with integrity.

Slava Ukraini! Sekelela Africa!

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT



In 2018, UAZA became an **associate member** of the **Ukrainian World Congress (UWC)**.

In 2025, UAZA's status was elevated, and it is now officially recognised as the **UWC's national central representation for Ukrainians on the African continent**.

Executive Committee

- 6 Members
- from 4 provinces
- 10 Minutes (monthly meetings)
- Updated Membership Application Form

Sub-Committees

- Info UAZA
- Ukrainian School development
- Cultural Cooperation
- 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

	1721	61,2% ↑
	244	31,9% ↑
	3,700	1.6%
	1155	170,4% ↓
	549	29,6% ↑
	219	29,6%

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEAM!



KATERYNA ALOSHYNA

President



ANZHELA SEVENSTER

Treasurer



OLGA KONONENKO

Public Relations



LESYA KARPENKO

Vice-President of Gauteng



DZVINKA KACHUR

Honorary President



SVITLANA SHEREMET

Chair of the Committee of Cultural projects



KATERYNA FEDKINA

Vice-President of Western Cape



KATERYNA KOSHKIDKO

Vice-President of KZN



JANA FOURE

Representative in Johannesburg

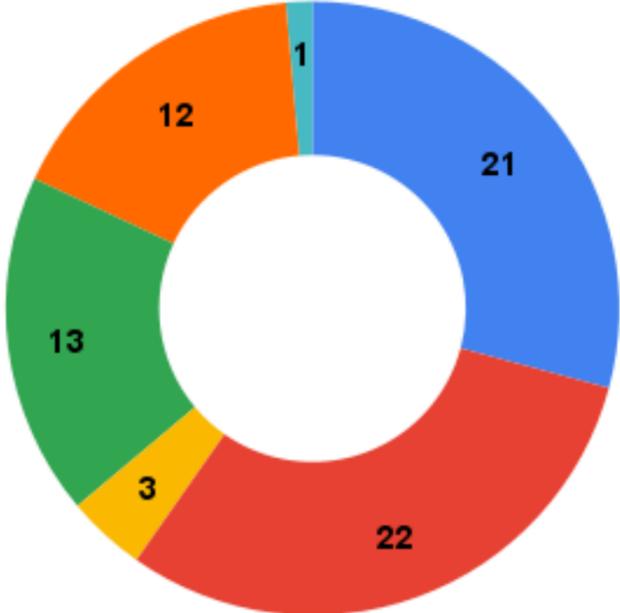
KEY INDICATORS



Events

72 events in Apr 24 - Mar 25

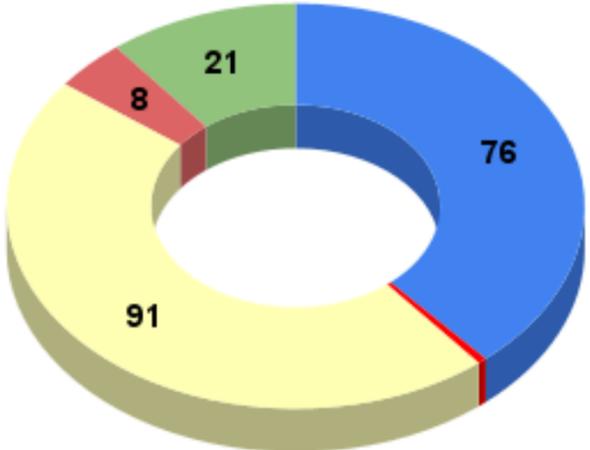
- Western Cape (Cape Town, Paarl)
- Gauteng (Johannesburg, Pretoria)
- World (Ghana, Romania, Ukraine)
- online
- KZN (Durban)
- Eastern Cape (Makhanda)



Membership

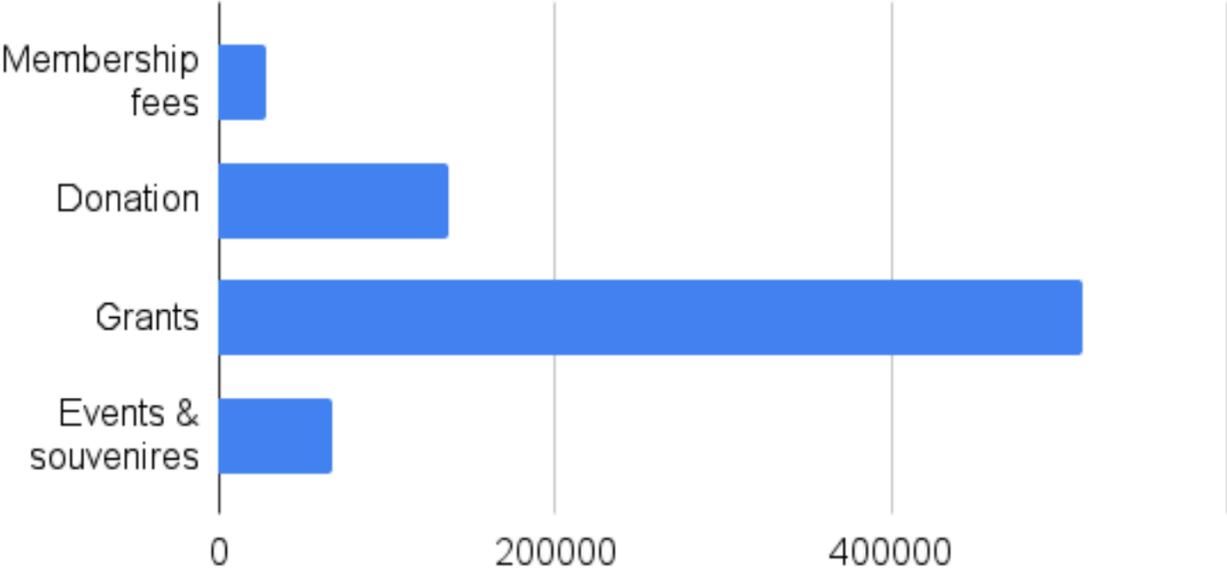
197 current members (+29 people in Apr 24 - Mar 25)

- Associate
- Honorary President
- Full
- Honorary Member
- Junior



Fundings

6 projects in 2024 and 3 in 2025



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

.....➔



ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Seminars in partnership with the TruthHounds and PEJ | March 2025

- Human Rights in Armed Conflicts: DRC, Sudan and Ukraine | Pretoria
- Environmental and Nuclear Safety Threats: South Africa & Ukraine | Cape Town
- Justice for the Environment: the ICC's Role in Ukraine and on the African Continent | Cape Town
- Global Environmental and Human Rights: Shared Challenges for Ukraine and South Africa | Durban

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

TRUTH HOUNDS PROJECT EXPEDITE JUSTICE UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA safcei

NGO ROUNDTABLE **MARCH 6** 10 AM – 2 AM

Environmental and Nuclear Safety Threats: South Africa and Ukraine Case studies

Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation
The Old Granary Building, Buitenkant St, District Six, Cape Town, 800

Civil Society Discussion & Film Screening

Global Environmental and Human Rights: Shared Challenges for Ukraine and South Africa

MARCH 10 12:30 - 16:00 Durban, Diakonia

SEMINAR

JUSTICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: THE ICC'S ROLE IN UKRAINE AND ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Date: 7 March 2025
Time: 10 am - 1 pm (SAST)
Venue: Kader Asmal Moot Court, Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape
Online: [LINK TO REGISTER](#)

TRUTH HOUNDS PROJECT EXPEDITE JUSTICE ACTCJ FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE



ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Symposium #BringKidsBackUA | November 2024 Pretoria

On Universal Children's Day, November 20, Pretoria hosted a conference focused on the return of Ukrainian children, who have been illegally deported to Russia or forcibly transferred to occupied territories and marked a significant step in collaboration between Ukrainian and South African experts to prevent crimes related to the abduction of Ukrainian children, which have been ongoing for over 1,000 days by the aggressor. The symposium also featured an opening address by the Adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, who presented the initiative, detailed Ukraine's ongoing efforts, and expressed gratitude to South Africa for joining the group of countries participating in negotiations on the return of Ukrainian children at the conference held in Montreal. The symposium served as a vital platform for uniting the efforts of civil society in Ukraine and South Africa to address the return of Ukrainian children and protect their rights. To read more on the policy briefs which address the protection of children during armed conflicts, UN reform and the safety of nuclear power stations, please [click here](#).





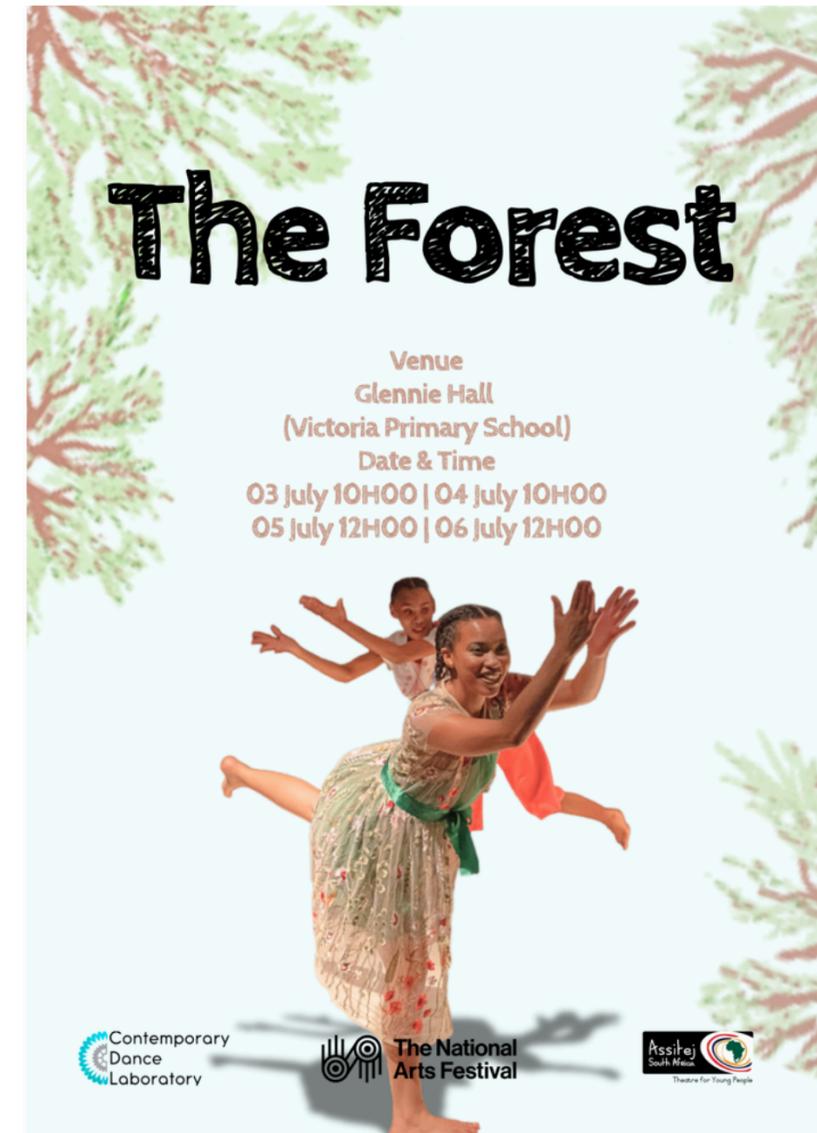
CULTURAL COOPERATION

“The Forest” dance performance for children inspired by Lesia Ukrainka’s book Forest Song

Production blends Ukrainian folklore, Amapiano dance, ecological awareness, and pays tribute to deported Ukrainian children:

- 14 shows
- in Paarl, Cape Town, Makhanda
- National Arts Festival have selected it for their Fringe Programme as part of the ASSITEJ SA Family Fare Platform. *The Forest* received an Ovation Awards 2025
- up to 1000 viewers (children) were attended.

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





CULTURAL COOPERATION

“Ubuntu” movie by UAZA’s team SEEnema | October 2024 Durban

The Project received an **award for the best Cinematography** and coming **third in ‘Best Film’ category** at the 48 Hour Film Project Durban.

UAZA team led by KZN representative Kateryna Koshkidko took on the challenge to compete against 138 other teams in making a movie in just 48 hours. The team has drawn the category Period Peace on the Food topic. The film ‘Ubuntu’ speaks on how Ukrainian food Varenyky sparks Ukraine-South African cultural interaction and soon grows into a long-lasting love story.

The directors of the project **Igor Kalishenko** and **Hannah Zhukovina** were also **shortlisted for the category Best Director**.





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.

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





TWO DAYS CAMP “UKRAINIAN CIRCLE”

December 2024 - January 2025

Over the Christmas season, Ukrainians gathered to celebrate both Ukrainian cultural traditions and the universal values of freedom and resilience.

- 20 families (approx. 50 adults and children) in Pniel, Western Cape, South Africa
- Master classes in making traditional knotted dolls, didukh (a symbolic sheaf of wheat), and varenyky (dumplings)
- Folk & modern dancing and singing workshops that brought generations together in joyful expression
- Lectures on the legacy of Ivan Mazepa, a historical symbol of the Ukrainian struggle for independence and cultural identity



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



UKRAINIAN AUDIO GUIDE

April 2025

UAZA launched milestone guide in South Africa's Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, a place that preserves the memory of the long fight for freedom, equality, and human dignity — a struggle that deeply resonates with Ukrainians today.



THE EXHIBITION SPADOK PROJECT

May 2025

The exhibition was presented at the event Africa at Heart: Celebrating Diversity and Global Solidarity in partnership with Lush Africa Foundation, Miss Culture Global and in collaboration with FILM.UA Group, on the Vyshyvanka Day.





COMMEMORATION THE VICTIMS OF HOLODOMOR

Annual event since 2017

The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Association of South Africa, invites you to the exhibition



**COMMUNICATING
HISTORICAL & CURRENT TRAUMA
BY ART**

In a series of posters, Ukrainian artist and designer Yuliya Fedorovych tells the story of the Holodomor in her own unique visual language. She highlights the key prerequisites, facts, and consequences of the 1930s famine-genocide, weaving them into a modern aesthetic reflecting Ukrainian culture's evolution in the 20th century. Traditional elements of folk embroidery—echoes of Ukraine's deep-rooted identity—are intertwined with the constructivist style of the 1920s and 1930s.

The final posters in the series draw a powerful parallel between history and the present, reflecting on Russia's ongoing invasion and rekindling the trauma of the past.

 JHGC, 1 DUNCOMBE RD, FOREST TOWN

The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre hosted the exhibition **“Communicating Historical and Current Trauma by Art”**, by **Ukrainian artist and designer Yuliya Fedorovych**.

She highlights the key prerequisites, facts, and consequences of the 1930s famine-genocide, weaving them into a modern aesthetic reflecting Ukrainian culture's evolution in the 20th century. Traditional elements of folk embroidery—echoes of Ukraine's deep-rooted identity—are intertwined with the constructivist style of the 1920s and 1930s.

The final posters in the series draw a powerful parallel between history and the present, reflecting on Russia's ongoing invasion and rekindling the trauma of the past. She calls this exhibition: **“Unpunished Evil: HØLØDØMØR & Russia's Modern-Day Crimes in Ukraine”**.

The Holodomor exhibition was opened for public in Durban (July 2024) and Cape Town (November 2023).

The events were organised with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine



SERIES OF DIALOGUES “JUST PEACE TALK”

since August 2022

In 2025, UAZA and DLTLF co-hosted a thought-provoking online discussion with Daily Maverick:

- **On the Frontlines of Freedom: Ukraine's Fight for Just Peace**
- **Justice or Just Peace: The South African Perspective on Ukraine**

Drawing on South Africa’s journey of transition and reconciliation to explore lessons for Ukraine’s path to a just peace.

Since 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.

A DM LIVE JOURNALISM WEBINAR

ON THE FRONTLINES OF FREEDOM

Ukraine's Fight for a Just Peace

Mark Heywood
Founder, Justice & Activism Hub (JAH)

Anabel Ramires
Head of cultural diplomacy, Ukrainian Institute for Asia, Africa & Latin America

Iryna Drobovych
Civil Society Leader, Ukraine & advocate for gender equality and democracy

Oleksiy Melnyk
Director, Foreign Relations & Int. Security Programmes, Razumkov Centre

Tue Feb 25 | 6pm

DAILY MAVERICK x 10 April 2025 12:00 SAST

A DM LIVE JOURNALISM WEBINAR

JUSTICE OR JUST PEACE

The South African Perspective on Ukraine

Janet Jobson
CEO, Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation

Prof. Tim Murithi
Head of the Peace-building Interventions Programme, IJR

Dzvinka Kachur
Researcher, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, University of Stellenbosch

Priyal Singh
Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies

Thu Apr 10 | 12pm -1pm

Justice or Just Peace: The South African Perspective on Ukraine



MOVIE SCREENING

INTERCEPTED (PG13)

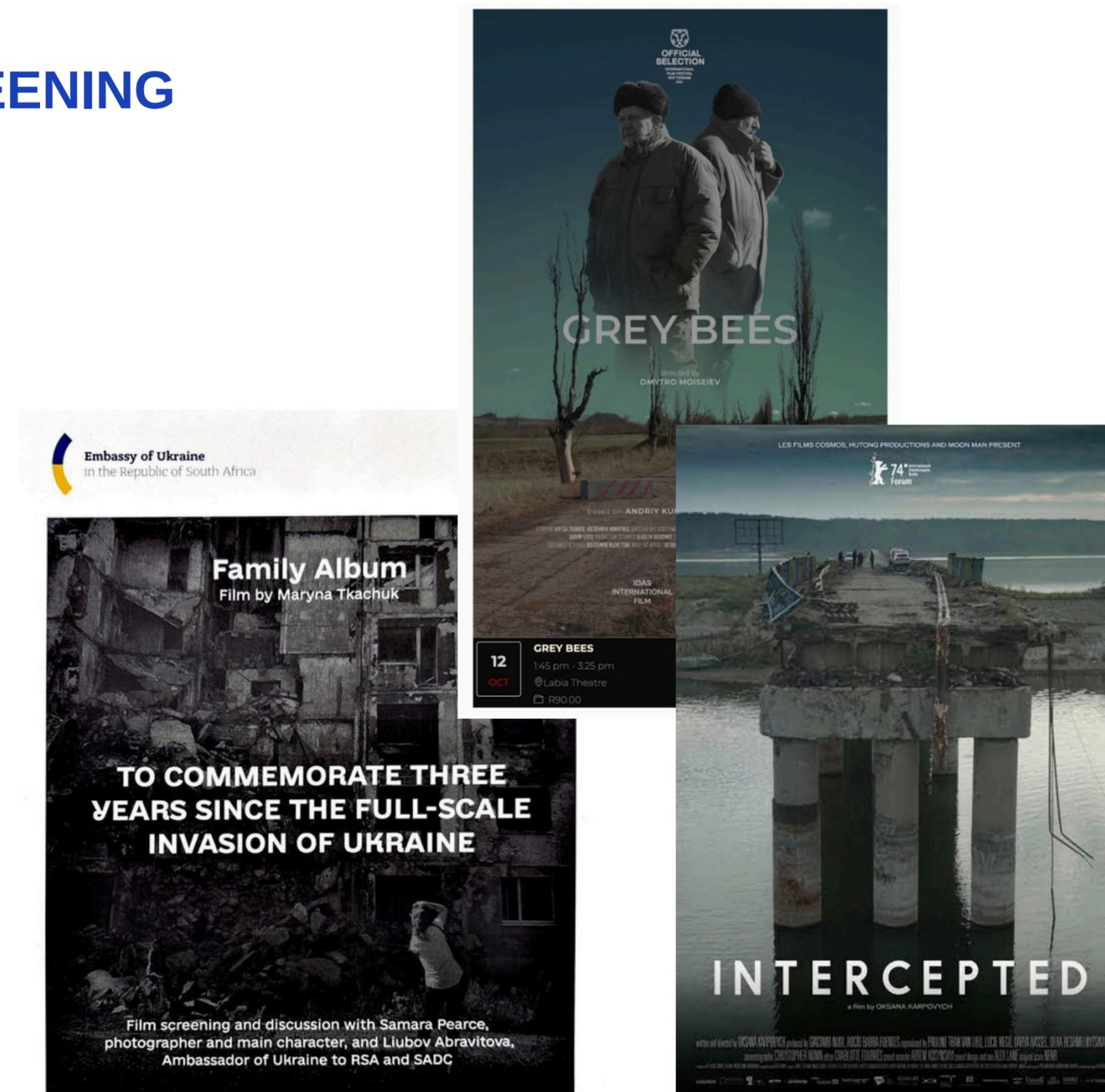
documentary by Oksana Karpovych
Encounters SA International Doc Film Festival
Johannesburg and Cape Town

FAMILY ALBUM

written and directed by Maryna Tkachuk, in the movie,
British photographer Samara Pierce discovers and tells
an incredible story about her family
Pretoria and Cape Town

GREY BEES

Directed by Dmytro Moiseiev
European Film Festival South Africa
Johannesburg and Cape Town



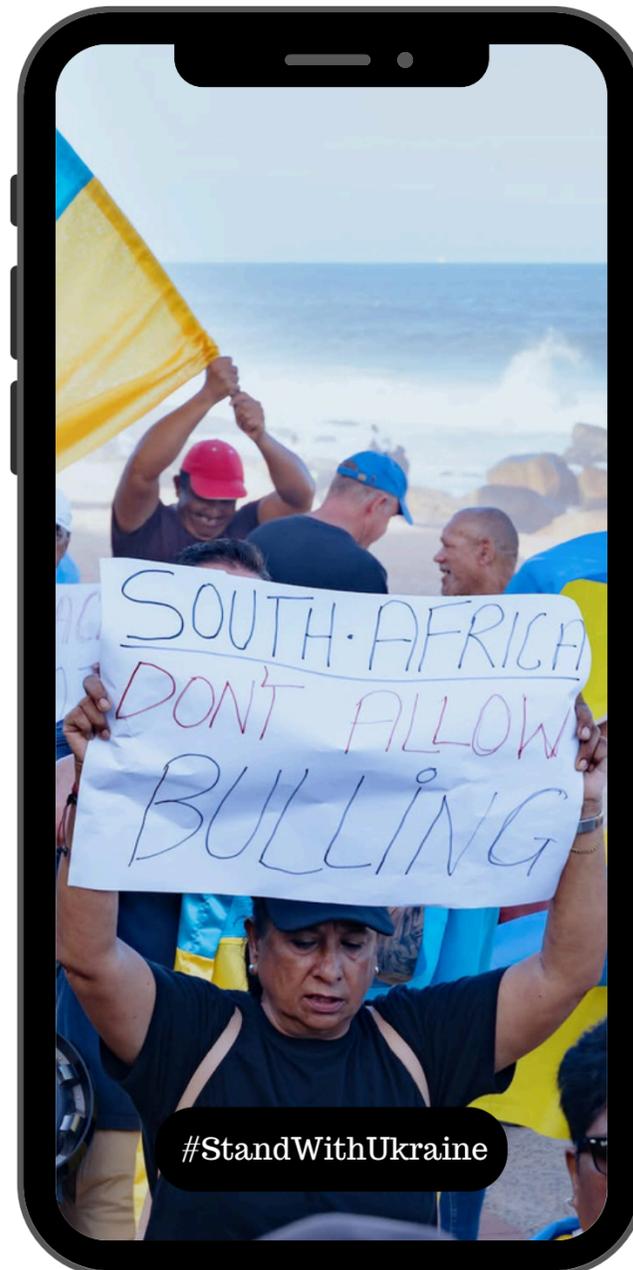
The events were organised with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine



MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AND PEACEFUL PROTESTS

#StandWithUkraine - protests in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg to mark the 3rd anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, honour the victims, 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, and demand justice and lasting peace for Ukraine.

#1000DaysOfWar - series of events to honour those who have given everything—the heroes on the front lines, the innocent lives lost, and the countless families torn apart; also to celebrate the strength of a nation that has endured, fought back, and inspired the world with its determination to remain free.



#SowetoForUkraine - peaceful demonstrations aims to highlight the dire humanitarian crisis resulting from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The attack on a children's hospital by Russian forces has brought the suffering of innocent children, elders, and disabled individuals to the forefront. We stand in solidarity with these vulnerable groups and seek to raise global awareness of their plight.

#IndependenceDayUA - series of event in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria for commemoration featured prayers, anthems sung by choirs, and honoured those who sacrificed their lives, including South African Pete Fouché.



HUMANITARIAN AID

Fundraising companies since 2022

Key Fundraising Events:

- **Fundraising event at the Hellenic Centre** (Pretoria) | Aug 2024
- **Painting Session at A Taste of Belgium Festival** (Cape Town) | Nov 2024
- **Stall at the The Shongweni Farmers & Craft Market** (Durban) | Apr 2025
- **Charity Fun Science Show Ballito Farmers Market** (Durban) | May 2025

Humanitarian Support Provided

These contributions have led to the **creation of safe and supportive spaces for children with special needs:**

- **in Zaporizhzhia** - we established a **sensory room and a speech therapist's office** at the Center for Inclusive Support "Exclusive Inclusion". These facilities offer essential psychological and pedagogical care to children with special educational needs.
- **in Sumy** - we equipped a **sensory room in a local shelter**, providing emotional relief and supporting the development of sensory and motor skills for children affected by trauma and displacement.

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



PARTNERS



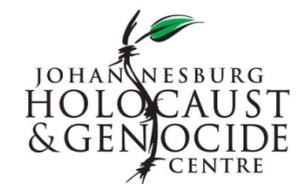
Embassy of Ukraine
in the Republic
of South Africa



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



***Follow us on
social media***

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#),
[YouTube](#), [Twitter](#),
[LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#)



***Become a
member***

[Full membership](#)
[Associate membership](#)
[Junior membership](#)



***Make
donation***

[Ukrainian Association of South
Africa is registered NPO with a
Section 18A certificate](#)

THANK YOU!

Q&A



UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA

www.uaza.co.za
info@uaza.co.za

