



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA



A CENTURY OF STRENGTH
INSPIRING GENERATIONS



OUR MISSION AND VISION

Founded in 1925, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is the oldest and largest Ukrainian women's organization in the U.S.

For nearly a century, UNWLA has championed women's activism, engaging Ukrainian women to advocate for Ukraine and protect its cultural heritage and support the most vulnerable, especially during times of crisis and repression.

As we celebrate 100 years of our devoted work to preserve Ukrainian heritage and strengthen communities, we look to the future with a bold vision: to keep empowering Ukrainian women, safeguard our cultural legacy, and foster a united sisterhood that strengthens Ukraine's resilience and supports its sovereignty.

With thousands of members across the U.S., UNWLA is driven by a bold ambition: to lead in advocacy, education, cultural preservation, and humanitarian aid through the strength of our united networks of Ukrainian women.



WE CONTINUE THE LEGACY



Our mission is to empower women to create lasting positive change by uplifting and enriching the Ukrainian community.

Together, we aim to:

Champion Ukraine's sovereignty and advocate for its people,
Educate the world about Ukraine's history, culture, and contributions;

Strengthen ties to Ukrainian heritage across generations;

Support women and children impacted by the war, fostering hope and resilience.



GUIDED BY COMPASSION AND PURPOSE, UNWLA WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE AND DEVELOP LEADERS WHO DRIVE PROGRESS AND PRESERVE OUR SHARED LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



UNWLA President Natalia Pawlenko

 president@unwla.org

A CENTURY OF STRENGTH

1925 - 1940

UNWLA was established as a unifying force for Ukrainian women in the U.S., organized the first Women's Congress of America, launched the first advocacy campaign dedicated to Holodomor.



1941 - 1950

UNWLA expanded to 62 branches, supported Ukrainian refugees in Europe and the U.S., engaged with the Red Cross and co-founded the United Ukrainian Relief Committee, launched the magazine *Our Life*, co-founded the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and established the Social Welfare Fund "Mother & Child" to assist families from Ukraine displaced to the USA.



1951 - 1960

UNWLA joined the National Council of Women of the U.S., sponsored Ukrainian educational programs in Europe, established the Babusi Fund to support older women in Ukraine, and acquired its first office building in Philadelphia.

1961 - 1970

UNWLA erected a Lesia Ukrainka statue in Cleveland, OH, developed teacher training materials, established the Scholarship Student Sponsorship Program, and launched the Kovaliv Fund to recognize Ukrainian literary and historical authors and works.

1971 - 1980

UNWLA established the Ukrainian Museum in New York City, protested the repression of Ukrainian women at an international tribunal in Brussels, supported the resettling of dissidents through fundraisers, and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit status.



A CENTURY OF STRENGTH

1981 - 1990

The UNWLA organized two “Ukrainian Woman in Two Worlds” conferences, raised awareness of the Chernobyl disaster, established the Chernobyl Children’s Fund, published a book on Ukrainian Church history, sponsored an exhibit on Ukrainian wooden churches at the Ukrainian Museum in NYC, and re-established contact with women’s organizations in Ukraine, including Soyuz Ukrainok Ukrainy.

1991 - 2010

Following Ukraine’s independence, the UNWLA expanded its cultural, educational, and social welfare efforts, launched the “Milk and Buns” fund for preschoolers, organized the “World of the 21st Century Woman” conference, provided flood relief in western Ukraine, initiated the “Assistance and Caring for the Elderly” project, and funded the English translation of *Svicha Pamiaty* (Candle in Remembrance) and history of the Holodomor.

2011 - 2021

The UNWLA established the Pediatric Burn Victims Fund, launched key programs such as “Aid to Ukrainian War Victims” and “Adopt the Family of a Fallen Hero,” supported military hospitals, and co-sponsored cultural and academic initiatives including an exhibit featuring Ukrainian diaspora women artists. It also funded *Prostir Nadii* for PTSD treatment and created the Women’s Studies Centre at the Ukrainian Catholic University, supported theological seminaries, and funded publications such as *Survival as Victory* by Dr. Oksana Kis. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNWLA raised funds to purchase oxygen concentrators and CPAP machines for patients in Ukrainian hospitals.



2022 - TODAY

The full-scale invasion in 2022 created a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and UNWLA mobilized all its resources to deliver swift and effective medical aid to hospitals around Ukraine, support women defending Ukraine, continue caring for children and vulnerable populations, and ensure continuous U.S. support for Ukraine through effective advocacy.



MEDICAL AID FOR HOSPITALS IN UKRAINE



SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE WAR



UNIFORMS FOR WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION



SUPPORT FOR RETIRED WOMEN IN UKRAINE

BUILDING ON THE LEGACY

PILLARS OF IMPACT



ADVOCATE

UNWLA engages members in regular advocacy initiatives.

UNWLA co-founded the American Coalition for Ukraine - the largest national alliance of pro-Ukrainian organizations and individuals focused on advocating for Ukraine.



EDUCATE

UNWLA educates communities about Ukraine, Ukrainian history, culture and literature.

UNWLA offers scholarships and stipends for Ukrainian students in Ukraine, Europe, South America, and in the US.



CULTIVATE

UNWLA initiates and supports art projects to promote Ukrainian culture across the U.S.

In 2023, the UNWLA Culture Committee launched an initiative to decolonize Ukrainian culture from foreign influences and appropriation.



CARE

The full-scale Russian invasion has intensified the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Through established social welfare programs, UNWLA provides emergency medical and humanitarian aid and continuous support to vulnerable populations.



ADVOCACY



EDUCATION

The Advocacy Committee educates UNWLA members on the most effective advocacy strategies and tactics and the most pressing policy and legislative issues to create a nationwide corp of powerful advocates.

ENGAGEMENT

UNWLA established a National Advocacy Committee to coordinate advocacy outreach on local and federal levels.

NATIONAL ACTION

UNWLA co-founded the American Coalition for Ukraine and is the organizational backbone of the Ukraine Action Summit that is held every six months in Washington, D.C.

RETURN UKRAINE'S CHILDREN

In 2023, UNWLA launched the Return Ukraine's Children initiative to mobilize community advocacy for the tens of thousands of Ukrainian children unlawfully abducted by Russian occupying forces.



EDUCATION



HOLODOMOR AWARENESS

Since 1933, UNWLA members have worked to raise awareness about the Holodomor orchestrated by the USSR government and advocate for its recognition as a genocide of the Ukrainian people.

LIBRARIES

The UNWLA toolkit for collaborating with local libraries effectively promotes Ukrainian literature in American libraries, supported by an extensive book list.

SCHOLARSHIPS

UNWLA supports U.S.-based students of Ukrainian descent through annual scholarships from the Eva Staszkiw Fund and from the Vovk Foundation.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Founded by the UNWLA in 1967, the Scholarship Student Sponsorship Program has awarded over \$5M to 23,000+ disadvantaged Ukrainian students in 17 countries, including Ukraine since 1992.



CULTURE



DECOLONIZATION OF UKRAINIAN CULTURE

In 2023, UNWLA launched a comprehensive toolkit to provide resources to effectively collaborate with public media and institutions in reclaiming Ukrainian cultural heritage appropriated by colonizers.

LITERATURE: KOVALIV FUND

Established in 1967 by a prominent Ukrainian family under the UNWLA umbrella, the Kovaliv Fund issues annual monetary awards for Ukrainian literature, including poetry, prose, and non-fiction, selected by a jury of renowned Ukrainian authors.

PERFORMING ARTS: MOVIES & MUSIC

UNWLA sponsored and helped to promote numerous award-winning Ukrainian movies. UNWLA supports an annual children's music competition to promote Ukrainian classical music.

VISUAL ARTS: UNESCO TREASURES

UNWLA created an online directory of modern Ukrainian artists in the U.S. UNWLA members organize events and rallies to educate the public about Ukrainian visual arts and traditional symbols.

BABUSI FUND

Founded nearly 60 years ago, the UNWLA Babusi Fund has provided crucial financial support to elderly Ukrainian women facing hardship, offering stipends for essentials like food and medicine and heating supplies. This lifeline has become even more vital amid war and economic instability.

MEDICAL AID TO UKRAINE

UNWLA's Medical Aid initiative has provided nearly \$25 million worth of critical medical supplies to Ukrainian hospitals including external fixators, wound vacs, albumin and - in 2024 - a sterilization system for the Children's Cardiac Hospital at Okhmatdyt in Kyiv.

ORPHANS FUND

UNWLA supports children in Ukrainian orphanages, foster care, and those displaced due to the war by providing essentials and by sponsoring recreational and rehabilitation camps.

SUPPORT WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES

Nearly 70,000 Ukrainian women have volunteered to join the Ukrainian army. UNWLA has established an ongoing fundraising initiative to cover the costs of uniforms and other essentials for women defending Ukraine on the frontlines.

SOCIAL WELFARE



OUR NEXT 100 YEARS

UNWLA'S NEXT CENTURY BEGINS NOW.

Together with your partnership, we will honor the accomplishments of the past while shaping a future where Ukrainian women lead, inspire, and preserve our shared legacy.

By building a Centennial Fund, we will transform our organization into a modern powerhouse for advocacy, education, humanitarian aid and cultural preservation — creating a strong foundation for future generations to build upon.

UNITE AND GROW OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome and empower thousands of newly arrived Ukrainian women immigrants, transforming them into active members and future leaders.

Build mentorship and leadership programs that inspire women to rise and lead.



PRESERVE AND PROMOTE UKRAINIAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

Strengthen efforts to safeguard Ukrainian heritage through events and educational initiatives that celebrate Ukrainian art, history, and traditions, raising public awareness of what is at risk of being lost.



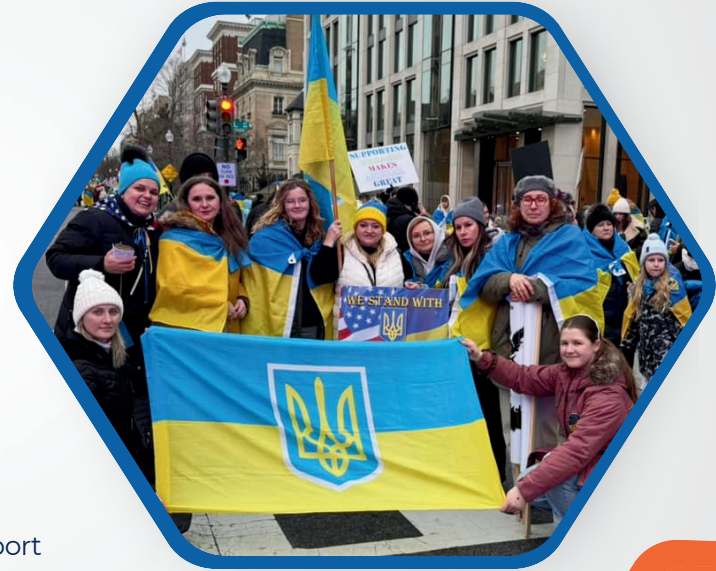
ADVOCATE

Advocate for Ukraine's freedom and identity through our nationwide grassroots organization, ensuring robust and continuous support.

ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ARISING FROM THE WAR

Expand mental health and rehabilitation programs to support women and children in Ukraine to aid the nation's recovery and resilience.

Support the mental health of newly arrived women immigrants in the U.S., helping them heal and integrate into American life.





PROFESSIONALIZE AND MODERNIZE

Raise funds needed to fuel growth and innovation, enabling us to build a professional infrastructure that supports lasting impact.

Establish a full-time development team to drive fundraising, membership, and partnerships.



**STAND WITH US.
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.
HELP US SHAPE THE NEXT
100 YEARS OF IMPACT!**





UKRAINIAN NATIONAL
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203 2nd Avenue,
New York, NY 10003

 www.unwla.org

 212-533-4646

 office@unwla.org

