



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# ABOUT US

**PEN Ukraine** is a cultural and human rights organization that unites Ukrainian journalists, writers, scholars, publishers, translators, and human rights activists. PEN Ukraine is one among 146 national centers of PEN International.

## The activity of PEN Ukraine in wartime is aimed at:

- supporting Ukrainian literary community;
- informing international audiences about Russia's war against Ukraine;
- documenting experiences that the people of Ukraine are facing nowadays;
- documenting Russia's crimes against Ukrainian media and culture;
- restoration of cultural life in Ukraine.

The organization includes **163** authors.

In 2023, **Volodymyr Arenev, Yaryna Grusha, Iryna Dmytrychyn, Teodozia Zarivna, Dmytro Lazutkin, Mark Livin, Anna Malihon, Oksana Mamchenkova, Oleksandra Matviichuk, Bohdana Matiyash, Hanna Osadko, Lesyk Panasiuk, Maryna Ponomarenko, Roksolana Sviato, Liudmyla Taran, Svitlana Taratorina, and Yaryna Chornohuz** joined the community of PEN Ukraine.

In 2023, Russia also took the lives of two PEN authors – **Victoria Amelina** (1986-2023) and **Ihor Kozlovskyi** (1954-2023).

# PEN UKRAINE IN 2023

**163**

authors in the community of PEN Ukraine

**9**

literary volunteering trips to liberated and frontline territories of Ukraine

**15 000**

kilometers of Ukrainian roads traversed by the PEN bus

**46**

fellowships for Ukrainian authors, totalling 1 350 000 UAH

**12 000**

Ukrainian-language books for damaged libraries

**25 000**

books from Book Aid International

**37**

libraries that hosted meetings with PEN authors

**33**

international authors who visited Ukraine

**27**

cultural and human rights projects and programs

over

**100**

cultural and human rights online and offline events

**35**

public events at the PEN Ukraine Space

over

**100**

Ukrainian and international partners

over

**500**

mentions of the work of PEN Ukraine in the media

# PEN UKRAINE SPACE



14a Lukyanivska St., Kyiv

In 2023, PEN Ukraine paid even more attention to cultivating our own space that became one of the most active cultural centers of Kyiv, where presentations, discussions, poetry readings, literary and music home performances, cinema screenings, and exhibitions continue to take place weekly.



# PEN UKRAINE WEBSITE

[pen.org.ua](http://pen.org.ua)

- the Publication section houses articles, reports, interviews, and compilations of poetry;
- the Thoughts section contains columns of the authors of PEN Ukraine;
- monitoring of media losses and Russia's crimes against Ukrainian culture;
- **83 news** and **75 publications** prepared.

*Editors – Hanna Ustynova, Diana Delyurman*

## PEN BUS

Since August 2023, PEN Ukraine has used the PEN bus to take the administrative team and PEN authors on volunteering trips, transfer international delegations, and deliver books to libraries. During 2023, the PEN bus made **11 trips** to the frontline and liberated territories of Ukraine.



# PEN UKRAINE PROGRAMS

## SUPPORTING THE UKRAINIAN LITERARY COMMUNITY

Since March 2022, PEN Ukraine has carried out an internal program of financial support for Ukrainian authors who find themselves in difficult situations because of the war.

In 2023, PEN Ukraine was able to grant **46 fellowships** to Ukrainian authors through the PEN Ukraine Emergency Fund program for a total amount of **1 350 000 UAH**.

The PEN Ukraine Emergency Fund program was supported by donations from **PEN America, PEN Berlin, Fundacja Open Culture, Razom for Ukraine, Thames & Hudson, Stavanger International Festival of Literature and Freedom of Speech Kapittel, translit e.V., Curtis Brown Group Ltd., Andrii Kurkov, Lucie Řehořiková, and Adam Pomorski**.

Additionally, PEN Ukraine became a partner of the support program for the Ukrainian literary community from Swedish PEN, through which, **40 Ukrainian authors** were granted fellowships for an amount of 1 000 EUR.

# LITERARY VOLUNTEERING TRIPS TO LIBERATED AND FRONTLINE TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

The initiative began in June 2022 with a trip of PEN authors to Kharkiv. Ukrainian and international authors and journalists join every trip.

Each trip is aimed at:

- giving the sense of context and understanding of life circumstances in contemporary Ukraine;
- facilitating networking and fostering new initiatives among intellectuals, cultural managers, civic activists, volunteers, servicepeople, and local authorities;
- providing aid from authors and journalists to meet military and humanitarian needs in the region;
- collecting stories of local people who survived occupation or siege of their cities;
- supporting damaged or ruined libraries via the Unbreakable Libraries campaign;
- documenting Russia's crimes against Ukrainian culture;
- creating informational materials for Ukrainian and international media.

Since December 2022, **9 volunteering trips** of PEN Ukraine to the Mykolaiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Zaporizhzhia regions have taken place.

**37 PEN Ukraine authors and employees**, along with international writers and journalists, partook in the trips. **23 events** at libraries and meetings with servicepeople and volunteers took place within the program.

PEN Ukraine supplied hygiene products, food, generators, power stations, medical supplement, high pressure cleaners, searchlights for air defense, training tourniquets, power banks, thermoses, and medications to volunteers and servicepeople.

*Coordinator – Maksym Sytnikov*



## THE UNBREAKABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE

In the autumn 2022, PEN Ukraine launched the indefinite support program for Ukrainian libraries affected by Russia's war against Ukraine.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at least **700 Ukrainian libraries** have been completely ruined or partly damaged. Russians have been systematically removing books written by Ukrainian authors or translated into Ukrainian language from the libraries in the occupied territories and wiping them out.

With support from foreign partners, Ukrainian publishers, and concerned Ukrainians, PEN Ukraine collects and sends new books in Ukrainian and English languages to libraries at the liberated and frontline territories.

Since December 2022, PEN Ukraine has purchased and delivered over **1600 books** for a total amount of 220 000 UAH to Russian-damaged libraries. The program has been implemented in particular partnership with **English PEN, Thames & Hudson Publishing House, Book Arsenal, Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House, PEN Ireland and PEN Netherlands.**



The program has covered the following regions:

**Mykolaiv,  
Kherson,  
Chernihiv,  
Sumy,  
Dnipro,  
Kharkiv,  
Donetsk,  
Zaporizhzhia**

In 2023, PEN Ukraine also launched all-Ukrainian book gatherings for the damaged libraries. **10 400 books** were gathered within the project: 1 000 for Chernihiv, 2 000 for the Mykolaiv region, 5 000 for the Kherson region, 500 for Nikopol in the Dnipro region, 1 400 for the Kharkiv region and 500 for Posad-Pokrovskyi in the Kherson region.

In November 2023, the British organization Book Aid International transferred **25 000 English-language books** to Ukraine. Mostly these were children's and young adult editions, along with books for English learners. The initiative was particularly supported by publishing houses such as Penguin Random House, Oxford University Press, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Unbound and implemented in partnership with such organizations as PEN International, English PEN and Nova Post Humanitarian.

While gathering applications for the grant of English-language books from Ukrainian libraries, the PEN Ukraine team received over **800 requests from the libraries**. The number of requested books varies from 3 to 5 000 copies.



*"A social project to unite hundreds of people began with a spontaneous conversation. The idea came at once. We saw the sincere wish to help in the eyes of our British partners. Six months of joint work of PEN Ukraine, Book Aid International, PEN International, English PEN, dozens of publishing houses – and then thousands of English-language books head from London to Kyiv, and dozens of writers personally pack, send and deliver book parcels for numerous libraries across the country. This is a story of many individual decisions and endeavors that make up a great thing."*

**Volodymyr Yermolenko,**  
president of PEN Ukraine

Authors such as **Alexander McCall Smith, Edmund de Waal, Elif Shafak** and others became ambassadors of the initiative in the UK. In Ukraine, the program was supported, among others, by writers **Sofia Andrukhovych, Andrii Bondar, Svitlana Taratorina** and actor **Ahem Seitablaiev**.

Production studio Eastman Films Ltd., in cooperation with the TRO Media and the Crimean House, is making a documentary film about the initiative.

In 2023, libraries of the Donetsk and Dnipro regions received the English-language books. Overall, **4 800 books** were transferred there.





## IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

This program, established in November 2022, is aimed at creating a message about the consequences of the Russian military's crimes against Ukraine and its culture while giving the participants of delegations a sense of context and understanding of the current situation in Ukraine during the war.

Foreign authors, journalists, publicists, cultural managers and opinion leaders have a series of meetings with Ukrainian cultural and human rights institutions, artists and military journalists, visit liberated and frontline cities and villages affected by Russia's war against Ukraine.

Since December 2022, PEN Ukraine has hosted writers and journalists from the **USA, UK, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Croatia, France, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Latvia and Netherlands**, and organized trips to Ukraine's de-occupied territories for them.

Four visits within the program were organized in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute and supported by the Prague Civil Society Centre.

Overall, **33 authors** visited Ukraine within the program.



*"Dear all, thank you very, very much. This has been a life-changing journey. Your courage, kindness and spirit will stay with me forever. I will be back. Meanwhile, we will do our utmost best for Ukraine in the Netherlands. All the very best!"*

**Florian Jacobs,**

writer, director of the publishing department of the International School for Philosophy (Netherlands)



*"Back in Italy, full of memories and emotions and gratitude. Working on some articles about this incredible experience. Thanks again and again for everything."*

**Francesco Chiamulera,**

director of Una Montagna di Libri book festival (Italy)



*"Visiting Ukraine has proved to be a very important experience of my life. Speaking from a distance isn't the same thing as feeling directly and seeing firsthand the impact of Russian invasion. Hopefully, I managed to convey the commitment and dignity I've witnessed during these days in Ukraine to my audience."*

**Vicent Partal,**

founder and editor of VilaWeb (Spain)



# DOCUMENTING RUSSIA'S CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN MEDIA AND CULTURE

## MONITORING OF RUSSIA'S CRIMES AGAINST MEDIA AND CULTURAL ACTIVISTS IN UKRAINE (IN BOTH UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES)

Materials of the monitoring projects – [Journalists at War](#) and [People of Culture Taken Away by the War](#) – are based on reports from human rights organizations and government bodies. They are also the framework for our newsletters for the international PEN community and reports used during our advocacy work abroad.

As of December 2023, the deaths of 70 Ukrainian and foreign journalists and of 96 Ukrainian cultural activists has been registered in the monitoring.

*Editors – Hanna Ustynova, Maksym Sytnikov, Diana Delyurman*

## PEOPLE OF CULTURE TAKEN AWAY BY THE WAR

[theukrainians.org/spec/peopleofculture](https://theukrainians.org/spec/peopleofculture)

This joint project of PEN Ukraine and The Ukrainians Media is aimed at both preserving the memory of cultural activists taken away by the war and attesting to Russia's genocidal intentions.

The project is implemented in accordance with PEN Ukraine's monitoring of cultural losses.



This is a series of portraits that loom while studying the legacy of the deceased cultural activists, talking to their relatives and colleagues, and making trips across Ukraine.



*"We often call it our duty to know and remember the names of the deceased. But it's also of importance not to make them into a soulless list because people's fates, dreams, unfinished work and unimplemented ideas stand behind every name. Our project is aimed at collecting and sharing people's stories so that their voices could still be heard among us and their job could still be done."*

**Tetyana Teren,**  
executive director of PEN Ukraine



*"How can we perpetuate the memory of our cultural losses, given that their amount is but increasing and some deaths cannot be even registered because they occur on the occupied territories of Ukraine? Our story is not complete in this gallery, yet the joint work of memory should start today to become not just documenting but making the deceased present among the living."*

**Sasha Dovzhyk,**  
the project curator

*Authors of the texts: Sasha Dovzhyk, Lena Kozar, Mariana Matveichuk, Hanna Ustynova*

**Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

## REQUIEM: AN ONLINE MEMORIAL OF DECEASED JOURNALISTS

[journalistsmemorial.gongadzeprize.com.ua](http://journalistsmemorial.gongadzeprize.com.ua)



Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, 70 Ukrainian and international journalists have been killed in Ukraine. This project is aimed at commemorating the media workers who wanted to stop the aggression.

Our mission is to continue the work of the deceased journalists, to tell the truth for the sake of which they sacrificed their lives, and to show the aggressor's real face to the world.

*Coordinators – Oksana Mamchenkova, Diana Delyurman*

**Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

## **NEWSLETTER: RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE**

An online English-language newsletter for the international PEN community, human rights organizations and diplomatic institutions includes information about Russia's crimes against Ukraine, Ukrainian media and culture, along with important materials in English and other foreign languages concerning the situation in Ukraine and Ukrainian culture.

**13 issues** were prepared during 2023.

*Author — Maksym Sytnikov, editor – Christopher Atwood*

## **STOP WAR AGAINST UKRAINE WEBPAGE**

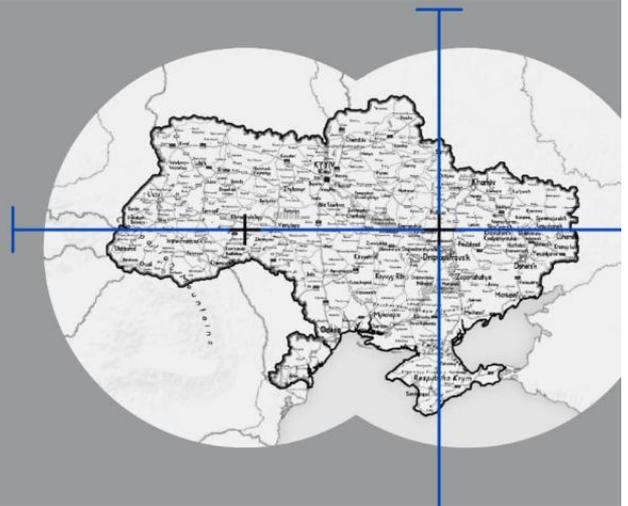
[war.pen.org.ua](http://war.pen.org.ua)

Based on PEN Ukraine's monitoring of Russia's crimes against the media and cultural activists in Ukraine, the page contains links to important materials and information sources, petitions, statements and appeals, compilations of publications about Ukraine in English, and books by Ukrainian authors recommended for translation.

## #STOP WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

RUSSIA INVADED UKRAINE. DEFEND UKRAINE TOGETHER!

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR UKRAINE



Author – Maksym Sytnikov

## THE WAR IS NOT OVER YET: STREET PHOTO EXHIBITIONS

The project is aimed at paying tribute to the memory of those who made Russia's war against Ukraine visible to the world – namely journalists who were killed, injured, taken captive, came under fire or suffered persecution since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

These exhibitions make an example of solidarity with Ukrainian media workers who risk their lives to fight for the truth.

Since December 2022, the updated exhibition took place in **Poltava, Kharkiv, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, and Kyiv.**

*Organizers: PEN Ukraine, Institute of Mass Information, Human Rights Centre ZMINA, National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity, Lviv Media Forum, the George Gongadze Prize.*



# MEDIA PROJECTS OF PEN UKRAINE

**Proper Names** is a joint project of Espresso TV Channel and PEN Ukraine, hosted by **Myroslava Barchuk**, vice president of PEN Ukraine. It is a series of brief conversations with intellectuals, opinion leaders, writers, artists, religious figures, and human rights activists. This is an expert view on both contemporary events and social phenomena and the historical context that frame them.



*"We analyze the point of history where our country now is, from a wider perspective. We speak of important things that could have been hidden, forgotten, or forbidden, but still, they have an impact on our humanitarian space and our lives. This program constitutes a kind of revision of the past; remembering of what should have been considered ours for ages; returning of substituted concepts and erased memory of our proper names; comprehension of such categories as legacy and heritage, tradition, history; acceptance of Ukrainian culture as that of our own."*

**Myroslava Barchuk**,  
the project author



Supported by philanthropist **Mykola Sushko**

- The project [Here-And-Now: Stories of Journalists at the War](#) is focused on the stories of those who cover and comprehend Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, who record people's stories both at the frontline and in the rear, who go on the air from bomb shelters, and of course those who enlisted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It's focused on journalists' personal and professional choices.

The project format consists of podcasts and articles in both Ukrainian and English languages.



The project's second season was completed in 2023. Journalists [Azad Safarov](#), [Bohdana Neborak](#), [Maksym Skubenko](#), [Iryna Shevchenko](#), [Vira Kuryko](#), and [Yevhen Malolietka](#) were its protagonists.

Website: [journalistsatwar.gongadzeprize.com.ua](http://journalistsatwar.gongadzeprize.com.ua)

Curator – *Oksana Mamchenkova*

**Supported by the Media Development Fund Program of the U. S. Embassy in Ukraine**

- [Words and Bullets](#) is a series of interviews with Ukrainian writers and journalists who enlisted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine or became volunteers after Russia's full-scale invasion. The project title refers to the arms used by the project protagonists prior to February 24, 2022, and the arms they had to take up since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.



During the year 2023, 11 stories were published, namely those of **Serhii Shebelist, Pavlo Stekh, Tetyana Ogarkova and Volodymyr Yermolenko, Maksym Skubenko, Maksym Kryvtsov, Yevheniia Podobna, Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, Yaryna Chornohuz, Ihor Mitrov, Petro Yatsenko, and Valerii Puzik.**

**Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

■ **#EmptyChairWeek:** in November 2023, PEN Ukraine launched an information campaign in remembrance of the artists taken away by the war, dated to the Empty Chair Day. The campaign results are as follows: 160 mentions on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, over 70 mentions in online media, 3 radio programs, and over 30 famous ambassadors joined the initiative.

■ **Close Ones:** a series of dialogues from Kult: Podcast and PEN Ukraine.

Kult: Podcast began as a series of conversations about the classic authors of Ukrainian and global literature, art, and philosophy. Today, the co-authors of the podcast **Tetyana Ogarkova** and **Volodymyr Yermolenko** present a series of dialogues with our contemporaries to their audience. The first conversations were those with writers **Kateryna Kalytko** and **Kateryna Mikhalitsyna**, and with philologist and psychoanalyst **Yurko Prokhasko.**



**Best Books of PEN Ukraine 2023.** For the 6th time, member of PEN Ukraine have drawn up a list of books that impressed them the most throughout the year. The list has traditionally included new items of prose and poetry, books in translation, non-fiction, children's and art books, and humanitarian works. In total, **179 books** appeared on the 2023 list.

# PROJECTS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH

## IV Media Days of the George Gongadze Prize at the Kyiv Mohyla Business School (February 25-26)

The conference about challenges and tendencies in the media field involved journalists, editors, and representatives of the responsible business community.

Throughout two days, journalists, media experts, and entrepreneurs discussed the ways in which the full-scale invasion influenced Ukrainian media sphere and talked about how international media spoke about Ukraine, how Ukraine presented itself to the world, and how had the journalists themselves changed during this time.

**16 speakers from Ukraine, the UK and USA partook in the Media Days.**



*Coordinator – Oksana Mamchenkova*

**Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

## Letters to the Free Crimea (February-May)

Within the joint initiative of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Center for Human Rights ZMINA, and PEN Ukraine, all concerned citizens could write a letter to the illegally imprisoned Ukrainians in Russian-occupied Crimea or on the territory of the Russian Federation. During the campaign, organizers gathered the letters and passed them to the places of the Crimean political prisoners' illegal detention.

The initiative is aimed at reminding about the Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin and showing that they are cared about and not forgotten.

Over **350 letters and emails** were sent from continental Ukraine, Poland, Sweden, and Thailand.

## Event in remembrance of George Gongadze in Kyiv (September 16)

September 16, 2022, marked 23 years since the abduction and murder of Ukrainian journalist George Gongadze. Human rights and media organizations held the annual event in remembrance of George Gongadze and all the murdered journalists in Kyiv, near the grave of Gongadze in Podil.

During the event, organizers drew attention to imprisoned Crimean journalists who gave their freedom for the right to tell the truth about what's going on in Russian-occupied Crimea.





*“Ukrainian civil society began to emerge within the protest movement Ukraine Without Kuchma, the one that was a reaction to the murder of George Gongadze. Two Ukrainian revolutions arose from those protests of the early 2000s. The story of George’s life and tragic death provides us all with an important lesson. Freedom of speech is always oppressed gradually and invisibly, it’s bitten of in the smallest pieces, and it sometimes costs a human life to bring it back. This is why we must never give away freedom of speech, tolerate political censorship or self-censorship, be it whatever smokescreen of war that their true essence is covered with.”*

**Myroslava Barchuk,**

journalist, TV presenter, laureate of the George Gongadze Prize 2021 said in the course of the event

*Organized by the George Gongadze Prize, PEN Ukraine, ZMINA, and the Institute of Mass Information*

# STATEMENTS AND APPEALS OF PEN UKRAINE

[Human Rights Organizations and Activists Demand Freedom for Maksym Butkevych, a Ukrainian POW, Illegally Sentenced by Russian occupiers](#) (March 2023)

[Human rights activists demand immediate hospitalization of unlawfully imprisoned Crimean journalist Iryna Danylovych](#) (March 2023)

[Statement of human rights organizations regarding the imprisonment of the Crimean Tatars civic journalist Amet Suleymanov](#) (April 2023)

[We respond to our people: PEN Ukraine Executive Board statement](#) (May 2023)

[PEN Ukraine and Truth Hounds Statement Regarding Russian Missile Strike On Kramatorsk](#) (June 2023)

[Statement regarding the Moscow court consideration of the appeal against the verdict of Maksym Butkevych](#) (August 2023)

[Ukraine must win: Resolution of the VII Regional Meeting of PEN Centres](#) (November 2023)

# CULTURAL PROJECTS

## V Essays Days Festival within the Yuri Shevelyov Prize (December)

The festival program included discussions, lectures and meetings with Ukrainian essayists. Authors such as **Iryna Tsilyk**, **Sofia Andrukhovych**, **Iryna Slavinska**, **Yurko Prokhasko**, **Vitaly Portnikov**, **Pavlo Kazarin**, **Andrii Humeniuk**, **Anatolii Dnistrovyi**, **Oleksandr Mykhed**, **Myroslav Laiuk**, **Vakhtang Kebuladze**, **Bohdana Neborak**, **Eugene Stasinevych**, **Sasha Dovzhyk**, **Oleksandr Savchuk**, **Taras Lyuty**, **Tamara Hundorova**, **Oksana Semenik** took part in the festival.

Writer, journalist, and radio presenter **Olena Huseinova** became the festival curator.





*"Intensity and fragmentation became the main concepts of this festival: I mean the intensity of our wish to document the things we are experiencing and fragmentation of this documenting process. While thinking over the program, I kept in mind the essay of Victoria Amelina, the one about the choice of silence that is behind our every word and gesture. The intensity of our reading seems to rest on this urge to find the zones of silence in the texts of our friends, colleagues, or even those people whom we never considered essayists or writers at all."*

**Olena Huseinova,**  
the festival curator

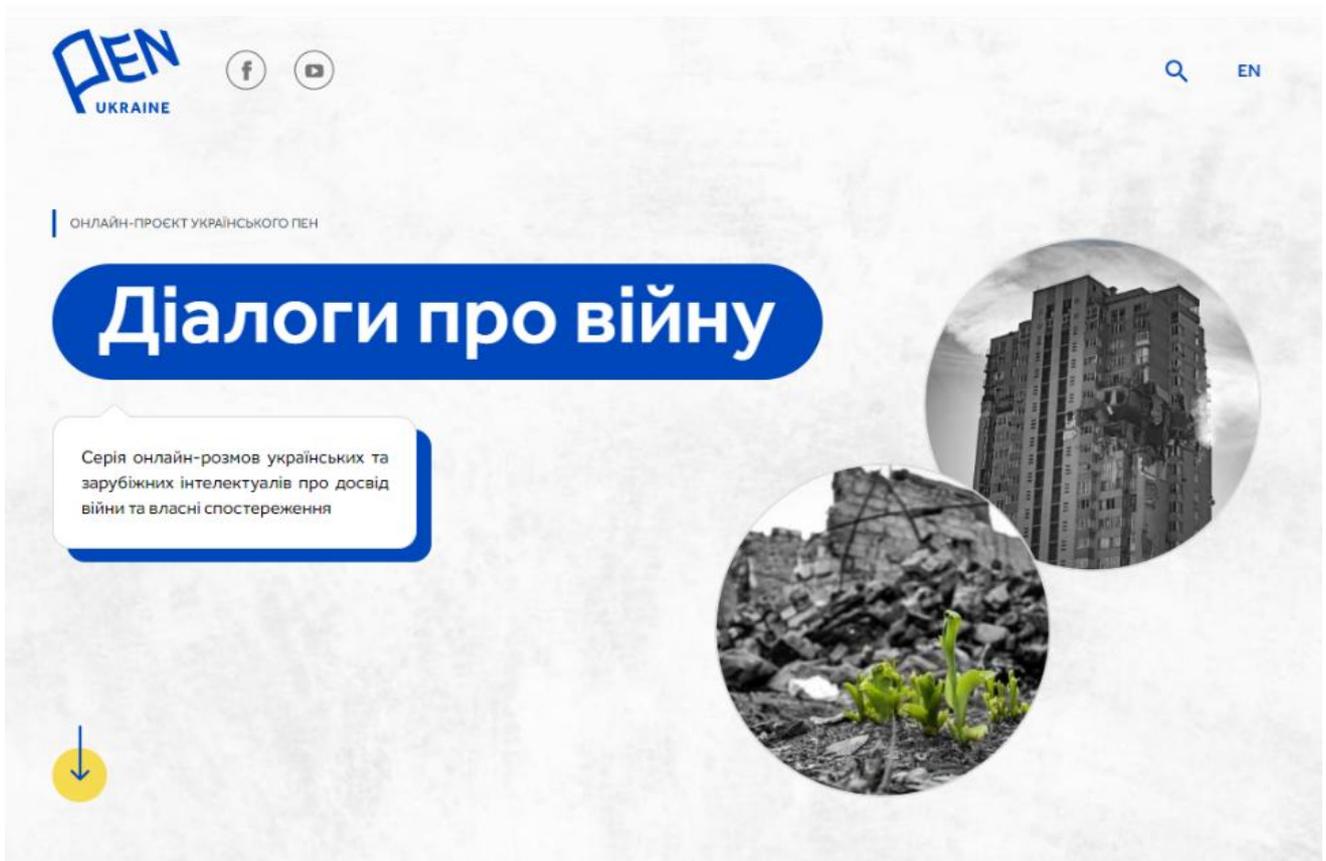
Organized by PEN Ukraine and Kyiv Mohyla Business School

## ■ Dialogues on War

[dialoguesonwar.pen.org.ua](https://dialoguesonwar.pen.org.ua)

Dialogues on War is a series of online conversations in English, launched by PEN Ukraine after the Russian armed forces began the full-scale invasion on the territory of Ukraine. Within the project, Ukrainian and foreign intellectuals speak about the experiences of wartime, exchange opinions and observations.

Overall, **44 conversations** have been recorded within the project, 9 of them in 2023. Writers, journalists, human rights activists, cultural managers historians **Oksana Rozumna, Peter Godwin, Julia Musakovska, Dave Eggers, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Arundhati Roy, Maria Tomak, Christina Lamb, Olesya Khromeychuk, Timothy Garton Ash, Oleksandra Matviichuk, Anne Applebaum, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Timothy Snyder** etc. became the protagonists of the project in 2023.



Apart from video dialogues, text versions of the conversations in Ukrainian and English languages are also prepared. As an outcome of the project, the book of interviews and essays is going to be released in Ukraine in 2024 by the Vivat Publishing House.

*Coordinator – Oksana Mamchenkova. Host – Olha Mukha*

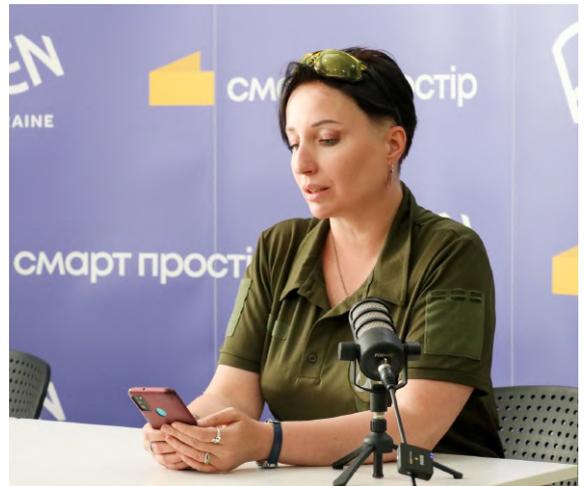
Partners: **PEN International, PEN America, Ukrainian Institute, Ukrainian Institute London, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute**

**Supported by National Endowment for Democracy and Democracy Commission Small Grants Program of the U. S. Embassy in Ukraine**

## Intellectual Studies at the Smart Space in the Poltava region

Smart Foundation and PEN Ukraine prolonged the series of meetings with Ukrainian intellectuals at the modern library Smart Space in the Poltava region.

Writers such as **Andrii Lyubka, Vladimir Arsenijevic, Iryna Tsilyk, Pavlo Korobchuk, Kateryna Kalytko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Halyna Kruk, Anatolii Dnistrovyi, Svitlana Povaliaieva, Maryana Savka, Maryna Hrymych, Olena Huseinova, Rostyslav Semkiv, and Olena Stiazhkina** took part in the project in 2023. Overall, **13 events** took place during the last year.



## Protasiv Yar festival in remembrance of Roman Ratushnyi (May-September)

PEN Ukraine became a partner of the art and human rights festival established by the Protect the Protasiv Yar NGO with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

**The festival is aimed** at spreading the idea of civic activism, the power of a local community of concerned citizens, and the story of changes that one person's endeavor or that of a small group of people, along with their faith and sense of responsibility for their own home can bring to their own district, city, and the whole of Ukraine. The event promotes human rights initiatives, Ukrainian history, traditional and modern art, and cherishes the memory of civic activist and serviceman **Roman Ratushnyi**, whose work lasts even after his death.



*The coordination board of the festival included Svitlana Povaliaieva, Yuliia Bartle, Artur Kharytonov, Myroslava Barchuk, Yana Bezsmertna, Tetyana Teren, Victoria Amelina, and Tetyana Vlasova.*

The festival includes various lines: those of art, democracy and human rights, and history.

Cultural activists such as **Taras Lyuty, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Stanislav Asieiev, Ihor Kozlovskyi, Alim Aliev, Maryana Sadovska, Nataalka Vorozhbyt, Sofia Bezverkha, Rymma Ziubina**, music bands **TELNYUK: Sisters, ShchukaRyba, Chorea Kozatsky, Grozovska Band, KOZAK SYSTEM** etc. partook in the first edition of the festival.

### ■ **Festival in Vylkove (July 14-16)**

PEN Ukraine became a partner of the first festival of Ukrainian culture Vydelka, established by serviceman and civic activist **Serhii Hnezdilov**.

During the festival, contemporary movies were screened, and lectures, discussions and music performances held.

Filmmakers **Maksym Nakonechnyi, Nariman Aliev, Vasyl Barkov**, poets **Kateryna Kalytko, Svitlana Povaliaieva, Maryana Savka** took part in the festival. The music program included performances of such bands as **Pyrih and Batih, Stepan Pantera**, singer and composer **Borys Sevastianov, and Maryanychi trio** from Lviv.

### ■ ***Puzzles From Skovoroda To Present Day: 100 Significant Books of Ukrainian Literature***

This initiative of the Ukrainian Puzzles is based on the eponymous project of PEN Ukraine and The Ukrainians media. Copies were partly granted to Ukrainian libraries within the Unbreakable Libraries initiative.

## The Language of Memory: a PEN Ukraine special program at Book Arsenal

The program of Book Arsenal that lasted in Kyiv on June 22-25 included five events of PEN Ukraine, united by the concept of the language of memory. Within this special program, Ukrainian and foreign intellectuals talked about **how the memory prompts** us to being responsible to the deceased and to our culture.



Thus, within the special program, PEN Ukraine launched the presentation of the book of Russian-murdered author Volodymyr Vakulenko-K. **I Am Transforming... Diary of the Occupation. Selected Poetry**; introduced the new collection of war poetry **Amidst Sirens**; and held a charity literary music home performance.

# LACEWORK

With the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, PEN Ukraine launched the 4th season of the Lacework project.

The Lacework project is aimed mainly at enhancing the prestige of reading in smaller Ukrainian towns, integrating them into the common cultural field with big cities, and introducing contemporary Ukrainian literature to the local citizens. Given the circumstances of the war, new important goals of the project emerged: supporting local cultural managers and civic activists, empowering local cultural and volunteering communities, gathering people's stories and documenting their wartime experiences, contributing to further decentralization and enhancing the prestige of local culture, history, and grassroots civic activism.

The project was launched for the first time in 2019: then, Ukrainian writers visited 19 towns in 9 regions of Ukraine (Odesa, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Chernihiv, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv regions, and Transcarpathia) within its two seasons. The third season was implemented already after the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. During June-November 2022, Ukrainian authors visited 8 regions, namely Bukovina, Transcarpathia, Subcarpathia, Vinnytsia, Lviv, Ternopil, Rivne, and Kyiv.

In 2023, **Hanna Osadko and Julia Musakovska** visited the towns of Derazhnya and Yarmolyntsi in the Khmelnytskyi region while **Svitlana Taratorina and Olena Stepanenko** met the audiences in Oleksandriia and Znamyanka in the Kropyvnytskyi region.





*Coordinators — Anastasiia Levkova and Mariya Tytarenko*

## INTELLECTUAL EVENINGS AT PEN UKRAINE SPACE

Since December 2022, **35 events** including discussions, presentations, poetry readings, home performances, and film screenings have taken place at PEN Ukraine in Kyiv (14a Lukyanivska St.)

In 2023, PEN Ukraine launched a series of film screenings in partnership with Docudays. During these events, we watch and discuss documentary films of Ukrainian and international directors, dedicated to the topic of human rights (**4 screenings**).



Additionally, **7 English-language events** in partnership with UkraineWorld also took place at PEN Ukraine Space.

On top of that, PEN Ukraine began to organize exhibitions of Ukrainian artists and photographers (personal exhibitions of **Anatolii Dnistrovyi, Svitlana Fesenko and Viktor Hurniak**, and an exhibition within the human rights project **Letters to the Free Crimea**).



No less than **1 500 people** visited the events of PEN Ukraine in 2023.

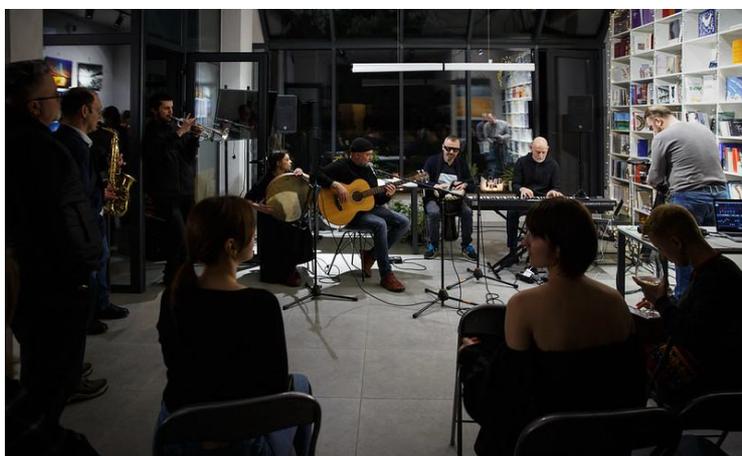
All the events at PEN Ukraine Space are aimed at supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine or volunteering initiatives. Thus, in 2023, we supported the Kult: Podcast, Come Back Alive Foundation, UA Responders, the Women Veteran Movement, Serhii Zhadan Foundation, SVOYI Charity Foundation, Fortress 4.5.0 Charity Foundation, the Powers of Mothers of Ukraine, Justice Initiative fund, UA.Ants, Nasha-Vsyudy, the NewYork Literary Festival, the 241st brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces and fundraising campaigns of Dmytro Krupyvenko, Said Ismagilov, Serhii Korobchuk, Andrii Lyubka, Dmytro Kuryko, Danylo Proskurin, and Yaryna Chornohuz.

Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

## POETRY AND MUSIC FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE: PEN UKRAINE'S CHARITY HOME PERFORMANCES

The idea of literary and music home performances emerged in Kharkiv at the Yuri Shevelyov Apartment Residency, where PEN Ukraine's team and friends gathered to read poetry and play music during the literary volunteering trips to the eastern parts of Ukraine.

Since December 2022, **6 charity home performances** took place at the PEN Ukraine Space. **9 musicians and 22 poets** participated in the performances.

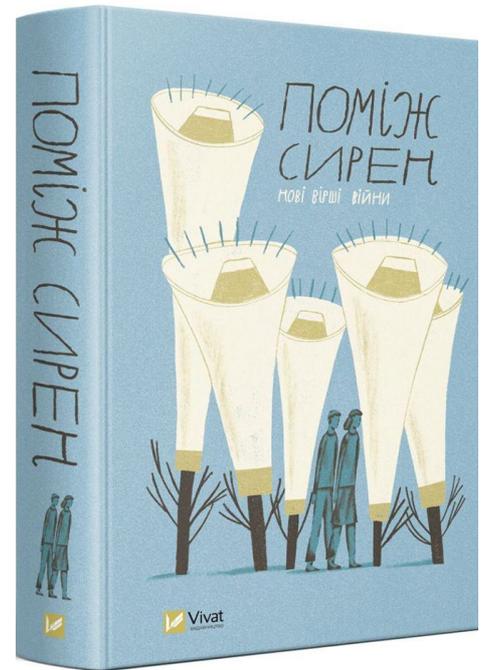


# PEN UKRAINE LIBRARY SERIES

## “Amidst Sirens: New Poetry of the War” (Vivat Publishing House)

This anthology is a testimony of a great war that was supposed to eliminate us and erase Ukrainian culture. Yet we survived against all odds, and our poetry sounds, powerfully and sincerely, ruining the walls around our hearts with trumpets of Jericho. Our painful and delicate open hearts learn to live on amidst sirens. As long as Russia wages war against Ukraine, this anthology should not be considered complete, as long as new poetry of the war is still written on the road to combat and humanitarian missions in the military, in Ukraine and abroad.

Having absorbed the voices of **59 contemporary poets**, this collection proves how strong, fragile, and invincible we become in the crucible of visitations.



*"This is an anthology of Ukrainian war poetry that covers the time of Russia's full-scale invasion from February 24, 2022 to approximately the early 2023. Its idea consisted in gathering the most important texts that appeared in our poetry during this short period of time. It's a very intense period of trials that never in our life had fallen on us. This intensity of existence makes every day a challenge and a gift if lived without stress or sense of danger."*

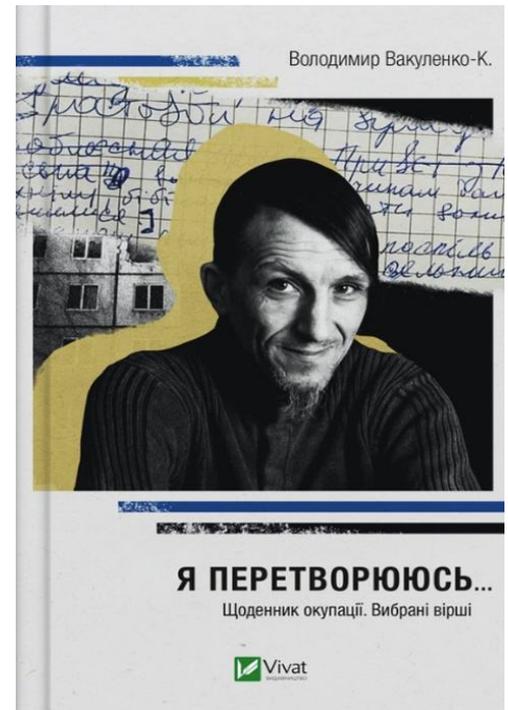
**Ostap Slyvynsky,**  
vice president of PEN Ukraine, compiler of the book

## Volodymyr Vakulenko. I Am Transforming... Diary of the Occupation. Selected Poetry

The diary of Volodymyr Vakulenko-K. is a collection of his painful and truthful thoughts and observations from the beginning of the full-scale invasion and during Russian occupation of Izium and his native village of Kapytolivka in the Kharkiv region until his very abduction by Russians. Volodymyr was well aware that he would very probably be taken captive and killed because he was a Ukrainian activist with the sense of his own dignity. A day before his abduction, Volodymyr buried his diary under a cherry tree in the garden and asked his father to dig it out after the village was liberated.

What does it mean to live in the occupation?  
What happens to people in such circumstances? What do they see with their eyes and in their hearts?

The book includes Volodymyr's diary of occupation, his adult and children's poetry, and stories from his friends, colleagues and eyewitnesses that immerse a reader into the chronicle of the first months of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. The foreword to the book was written by Victoria Amelina.



# AWARDS

## The George Gongadze Prize

The George Gongadze Prize is awarded annually to Ukrainian journalists for their commitment to the principles and values of independent journalism. The prize was established in 2018 by PEN Ukraine in partnership with the Kyiv Mohyla Business School, the Alumni Association of the Kyiv-Mohyla Business School, and Ukrayinska Pravda. In 2023, the prize was awarded to journalist, author and presenter **Bohdan Logvynenko**. The award ceremony took place on May 21 in Kyiv.



## The Vasyl Stus Prize

The Vasyl Stus Prize was established in 1989 by second president of PEN Ukraine Yevhen Sverstiuk. Since 2016, PEN Ukraine, the Kyiv Mohyla Business School and Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House have taken charge of it. The prize is awarded annually to living authors (writers, artists, directors, musicians, cultural managers) regardless of their place of residence for their special contribution to Ukrainian culture and persistence of public stance. In 2023, the prize was awarded to documentary director **Serhii Bukovsky**. The award ceremony took place on September 14 in Kyiv.



## Drahomán Prize

The Drahomán Prize is an award for translators from Ukrainian into world languages, founded in 2020 by the Ukrainian Institute, PEN Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Book Institute. The prize is awarded for excellent translation skills and contribution to the promotion of Ukrainian literature abroad. In 2023, the prize was awarded to French translator **Iryna Dmytrychyn**.



The award ceremony took place on September 26 in Gdansk (Poland) jointly with Wolne Słowo Gdańsk Miasto Literatury, Kolegium Europy Wschodniej, Stowarzyszenie autorów ZAiKS, Polsko-Amerykańska Fundacja Wolności, Fundacja Liderzy Przemian and Program Study Tours to Poland.

## The Yuri Shevelyov Prize

The Yuri Shevelyov Prize was established in 2013 by PEN Ukraine, the Kyiv Mohyla Business School, the Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House, the Center of Judaism, and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University. The prize bears the name of Yuri Shevelyov, the founder of modern Ukrainian essays, and it notes the contribution to the inherent values of this genre: independence of thought and sophistication of style.

In 2023, the prize was awarded to writer, culturologist and cultural manager **Oleksandr Mykhed** for his book Language of War («Позивний для Йова: Хроніки вторгнення»). **Andrii Hudyma** (posthumously) and **Andrii Sodomora** were honored with the special awards of the Chapter, while **Andrii Humenyuk** received the special award of UA: Radio Culture.



# ESTABLISHING OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

Participation in the meeting of PEN America Translation Committee **(January)**

PEN Ukraine became the co-organizer of the Ukrainian program at London Book Fair **(April)**

Participation in the General Meeting of PEN Sweden **(May)**

A series of events involving Ukrainian authors at the Ukrainian House in Denmark **(August-November)**

Participation in the International PEN Congress **(online)**

Partners of the Ukrainian program within Dublin Book Festival joint with Irish PEN **(November)**

An event in Paris in remembrance of Victoria Amelina in partnership with Eastern Circles, Columbian University in Paris, and the Ukrainian Institute **(November)**

Advocatory program in London (in partnership with the International Centre for Ukrainian Victory): a series of meetings with politicians, diplomats, cultural and scholar communities **(January)**

**Olha Mukha, Iryna Starovoyt, Halyna Kruk, and Alla Tatarenko** took part in the meeting of the Writers for Peace Committee in Bled, Slovenia **(May)**

**Julia Musakovska and Andrii Lyubka** participated in the Norsk Litteratur festival in Oslo with the support of Norwegian PEN **(June)**

An event in Barcelona in remembrance of Victoria Amelina in partnership with PEN Català **(November)**

Partners of the Swedish PEN event dedicated to the Empty Chair Day and the award ceremony of the Kurt Tucholsky Prize in Stockholm **(November)**



## VII REGIONAL MEETING OF PEN CENTERS

On October 22-25, the VII Regional Meeting of PEN Centers, organized by PEN Ukraine with support from PEN International and the New Democracy Fund, took place in Kyiv. Launched in 2014 as an annual meeting of PEN Centers from the Central and Eastern Europe, this event constitutes a safe venue for mutual support and a platform to discuss challenges for the freedom of speech and human rights in the region. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, the Meeting is aimed at expressing the international PEN community's solidarity with Ukraine.



The pool of participants of the VII Regional meeting included **Peter Mickwitz** (PEN Finland), **Per Christian Øhrgaard** (PEN Denmark), **Ann-Magrit Austenå** (PEN Norway), **Faruk Sehic** (PEN Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Henrik Sjöberg** (PEN Sweden), **Sophie Sumburane** (PEN Berlin), and **Stefan Todorovic** (PEN Montenegro).

During their visit to Ukraine, the participants also met the representatives of human rights and cultural organizations such as **Truth Hounds**, **Crimean Platform**, **Ukrainian Institute**, **Vivat Publishing House**, **Ukrainian Book Institute**, **Laboratoria Publishing House**. The program of the VII Regional Meeting of PEN Centers also included two discussions dedicated to the topic of Europe and the war. During both, the questions of the political regimes' influence on collective and individual historic memory and of art as an instrument of reflection were raised. The conversations were moderated by **Volodymyr Yermolenko** and **Iryna Slavinska**.

Besides, public interviews were also organized during the Regional Meeting. **Alim Aliev**, human rights activist and deputy director general of the Ukrainian Institute, talked about the situation with freedom of speech and human rights in the Russian-occupied Crimea.

**Mykhailo Palinchak**, who was among the first photographers to enter Bucha after its liberation and whose shocking footage of the consequences of Russians' aggression went all around the world, spoke on the ethics of documenting the war.



*"To all you brilliant and wonderful people at Pen Ukraine – thank you so much for your hospitality, your generosity, your planning skills and your constant struggle for Ukraine. I'm very impressed by your work and dedication and I am glad I got the opportunity to visit you and your beautiful country! Hope to be back soon. Love."*

**Henrik Sjöberg (PEN Sweden)**



*"It was an honor to be with you in Kyiv. Thank you for your truly generous hospitality. I was even more impressed by your desire and willingness to do everything with a smile in this really difficult moment for you. Thanks again, stay strong and I am sure we will see each other again. Glory to Ukraine!"*

**Faruk Šehić (PEN Bosnia and Herzegovina)**



*"Thank you all great people in PEN Ukraine for good work despite such brutal and challenging times, for generosity, hospitality and inspiration."*

**Sophie Sumburane (PEN Berlin)**

**Supported by PEN International and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

# PLANS FOR 2024

- Continuation of the Unbreakable Libraries program and partnership with the Book Aid International
- Continuation of PEN Ukraine's literary volunteering trips to Ukrainian cities and towns
- Continuation of the project People of Culture Taken Away by the War **(in partnership with The Ukrainians Media)**
- Stories of Resilience: residency for a Ukrainian author in London **(in partnership with English PEN)**
- A project in partnership with the French photo agency MYOP **(February)**
- Launch of the PEN Reading Club **(February)**
- The second workshop festival Propysy (Practice Writing) for young authors in Ivano-Frankivsk **(March)**
- The collection of imprisoned journalists' stories, diaries, and letters from the occupied Crimea **(in partnership with The Ukrainians and Vivat Publishing House)**
- Final book publication of the project Words and Bullets **(in partnership with Chytomo and Vivat Publishing House)**
- Final book publication of the project Dialogues on War **(in partnership with Vivat Publishing House and HURI)**
- Continuation of the 4th season of the Lacework project **(trips to the Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Poltava, and Odesa regions)**
- Continuation of the program In Solidarity With Ukraine: awaiting the delegations from the **Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Argentina, India, and Brazil**

- The fellowship program for Ukrainian non-fiction writers in partnership with the Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translators Association
- VIII Regional Meeting of PEN Centers in Ukraine **(May)**
- Special program of PEN Ukraine (Duration of Memory) at Kyiv Book Arsenal **(May)**

# INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
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DEMOCRACY



МІЖНАРОДНИЙ  
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Hawthornden  
Foundation



PRAGUE  
**CIVIL  
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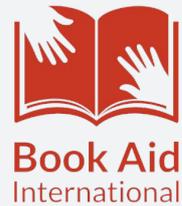
TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY

財團臺灣民主基金會



**PEN**  
NEDERLAND

Thames  
&Hudson



# MEDIA PARTNERS

During the year, **over 500** mentions of PEN Ukraine's projects and activity were documented in Ukrainian and international media (online and printed media, TV, and radio). The materials were published in such countries as the UK, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, the USA, France etc. Among the foreign media, PEN Ukraine worked in 2023 with such outlets as **De Groene Amsterdammer, El Confidential, El Pais, Linkiesta, The Telegraph, The Washington Post** etc.

Main media partners in Ukraine: **UA: Radio Culture, Sensor, UA: Suspilne Culture, Espresso TV Channel, Ukrayinska Pravda, Chytomo, UkraineWorld, Hromadske, The Ukrainians Media.**

# PROJECT AND AWARD PARTNERS

- Apostolove town community
- Pintagon Art Club
- Alumni Association of the Kyiv-Mohyla Business School
- Balakliia Central District Library
- Blahodatne Village Library of the Chornobaivka Village Council
- To the Children of Nikopol Charity Foundation
- Impuls.UA Charity Foundation
- Chance for Life Charity Foundation
- Book Aid International
- Vivat Publishing House
- Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House
- The Old Lion Publishing House
- The Department of Culture of Sloviansk City Council
- The Department of Culture, Youth And Sport of Balakliia City Council
- Department of Implementation of the Humanitarian Policy of Kherson Regional State Administration
- Dnipro Mykhailo Svietlov Regional Youth Library
- Balsanka volunteering community
- Dobrochynets volunteering community (Kharkiv)
- Halytsynove united territorial community
- Hlukhiv Central District Library
- Protecting Protasiv Yar NGO
- Kramchary NGO
- Eastern Circles
- English PEN
- Zaporizhzhia Regional Universal Scientific Library
- Zelenodolskcity community
- Institute of Mass Information
- International Centre for Ukrainian Victory
- Kapytolivka Village Library
- The Yuri Shevelyov Apartmen Residency (Kharkiv)
- Kyiv Mohyla Business School

- Book Arsenal
- Columbia University in Paris
- Komyshuvakha Central Library System
- The Crimean House
- Kult: Podcast
- Public Cultural Center ShelterPlus
- Lviv Book Forum
- Lviv Media Forum
- Curtis Brown Ltd.
- Marhanets Public Library
- Mykolaiv Regional Universal Scientific Library
- Kryvyi Rih City Children's Library
- The Dnieper Ukraine Literary Museum
- The National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity
- The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy
- Nikopol Central Library System
- Reporters online media
- The Ukrainians online media
- Chytomo online media
- Okhtyrka Public Library
- PEN America
- PEN Berlin
- PEN Català
- PEN Ireland
- PEN Sweden
- Pervomaiskcity community
- Posad-Pokrovskiy Village Library of Chornobaivka Village Council
- Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
- UA:Radio Culture
- Razom for Ukraine
- Savyne village community
- St. Demetrios Church in Kharkiv
- Smart Prostir
- Snihurivka town community
- Old Saltiv Public Library
- Stavanger International Festival of Literature and Freedom of Speech Kapittel
- Сумська обласна універсальна наукова бібліотека SumyRegional Universal Scientific Library
- UA:Suspilne

- Espresso TV Channel
- translit e.V.
- Trostianets Public Library
- Truth Hounds
- Ukrainian House in Denmark
- Ukrainian Institute
- Ukrainian Institute London
- Ukrainian Book Institute
- Ukrainian Crisis Media Center
- Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute
- Ukrayinska Pravda
- Ukrainian Puzzles
- Ukrainer
- UkraineWorld
- Department of Culture, Ethnicities and Religions of Mykolaiv Regional State Administration
- Department of Culture and Tourism of Chernihiv City Council
- Fundacja Open Culture
- Kharkiv Literary Museum
- Kharkiv National Vasyl Karazin University
- Slovo Residency (Kharkiv)
- Kherson Central Children's Library
- Kherson B. Lavrenyov Youth Library
- Kherson Regional Museum of Local History
- Novobavarskyi Central District Library System of Kharkiv
- Center for Human Rights ZMINA
- Center of Judaism
- Chernihiv Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi City Library
- Chernihiv Oleksandr Dovzhenko City Children's Library
- Chernihiv Regional Youth Library
- Mykolaiv Central M. Kropyvnytskyi City Library
- Iziium Central City Library
- Shevchenkove Public Library

# EXECUTIVE BOARD



**Marynovych Myroslav**

Human rights defender, publicist, religious scholar, founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group



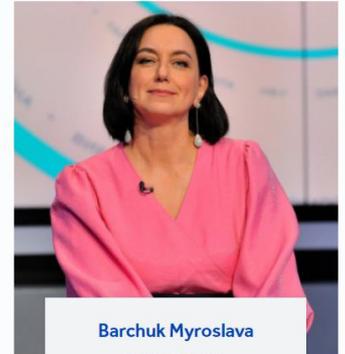
**Riabchuk Mykola**

Publicist, poet, novelist, translator



**Yermolenko Volodymyr**

President of PEN Ukraine



**Barchuk Myroslava**

Vice President



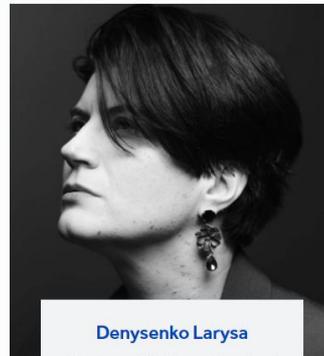
**Slyvynskyi Ostap**

Vice President



**Aliev Alim**

Member of the Executive Board



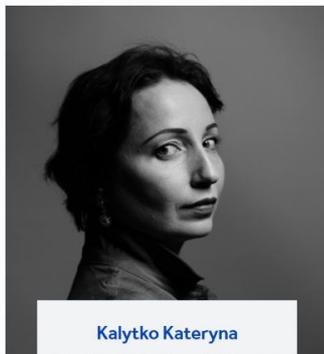
**Denysenko Larysa**

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**Dnistroyi Anatoliy**

Member of the Executive Board



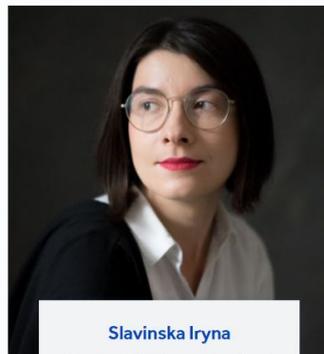
**Kalytko Kateryna**

Member of the Executive Council



**Kozlovskyi Ihor**

Member of the Executive Board



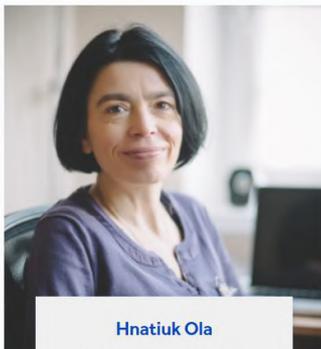
**Slavinska Iryna**

Member of the Executive Board



**Stech Marko Robert**

Member of the Executive Board



**Hnatiuk Ola**

Advisor to the President

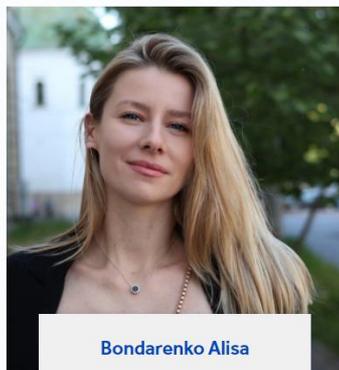
# ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



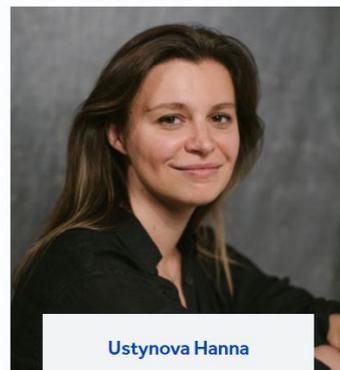
**Teren Tetyana**  
Executive Director



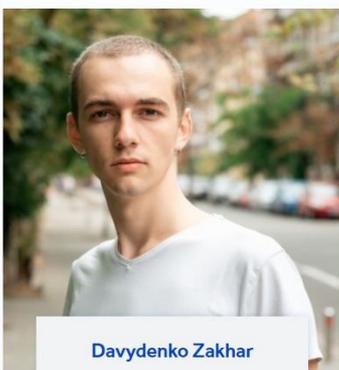
**Sytnikov Maksym**  
Deputy executive director



**Bondarenko Alisa**  
Cultural projects manager



**Ustynova Hanna**  
Communications manager



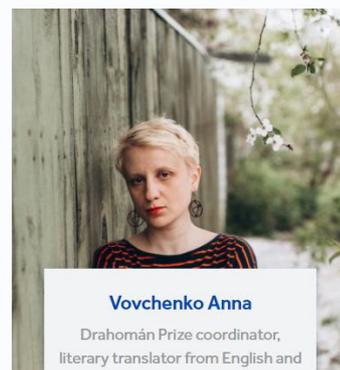
**Davydenko Zakhar**  
Social media manager



**Malysheva Tetyana**  
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**Afanasieva Sofia**  
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**Vovchenko Anna**  
Drahoman Prize coordinator,  
literary translator from English and  
Spanish



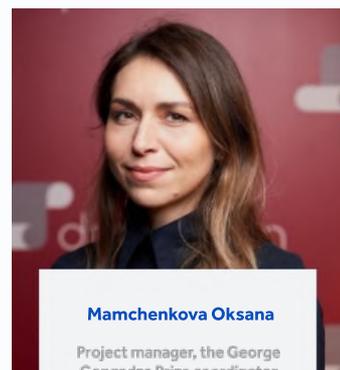
**Delyurman Diana**  
Communication manager of the  
George Gongadze Prize



**Kateryna Mishchuk**  
Fundraising consultant



**Anastasiia Yevstratenko**  
Cultural project manager



**Mamchenkova Oksana**  
Project manager, the George  
Gongadze Prize coordinator

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