



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CONTENTS

About us	4
• PEN Ukraine in 2024	5
• Achievements	6
• PEN Ukraine Space	7
• PEN Ukraine website	8
• PEN bus	9
• Supporting the Defense Forces of Ukraine	9
PEN Ukraine programs	12
• Supporting the Ukrainian literary community	12
• Literary volunteering trips to liberated and frontline territories of Ukraine	14
• Unbreakable Libraries	15
• In Solidarity With Ukraine	18
Documenting Russia' war crimes against Ukrainian media and culture	21
• Monitoring of Russia's war crimes against Ukrainian cultural activists and journalists	21
• People of Culture Taken Away By the War	21
• REQUIEM: online memorial of the deceased journalists	24
• Newsletter: Russia's War Against Ukraine	25
• Stop War Against Ukraine webpage	25
Media projects of PEN Ukraine	27
Projects related to human rights and freedom of speech	30
• George Gongadze commemoration week	32
• Media days of the George Gongadze Prize	34
• Free voices of Crimea	36

Statements and appeals	37
Cultural projects	38
• VI Essays Days Festival	41
• II Propysy Festival	42
• IV season of the Lacework project	44
• PEN Ukraine Space	46
• The Outpost for the Future	50
• PEN Ukraine Library series	52
PEN Ukraine awards	58
Establishing international cultural cooperation	60
• VIII Regional meeting of PEN centers	64
Planned for 2025	66
Institutional partners	68
Media partners	69
Project and award partners	70
Executive Board	74
Administrative team	75
Contacts	76

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 the 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
- establishing international cultural cooperation
- replenishment of library collections

The organization includes **183** authors.

In 2024, **Andrii Bachynskyi, Natalia Vorozhbyt, Anna Gruver, Serhii Demchuk, Mykhailo Zharzhailo, Kateryna Zarembo, Iosyf Zisels, Olha Kupriian, Nina Kuryata, Viacheslav Levytskyi, Pavlo Matiusha, Olha Olkhova, Ivan Senin, Andrii Khaietskyi, Volodymyr Sheiko, and Hanna Yanovska** joined the community of PEN Ukraine.

In 2024, PEN Ukraine's author, poet and translator **Arkady Shtypel (1944-2024)** passed away.

PEN UKRAINE IN 2024

177

authors in the community of PEN Ukraine

11

volunteering trips

over

30 000

kilometers of Ukrainian roads

6

vehicles for press officers

€50 000

fellowships for 10 Ukrainian non-fiction authors

€13 500

for PEN to purchase new books for Ukrainian libraries

27 000

English language books as a second donation from Book Aid International

80

80 events at PEN Ukraine Space

over

270

events in Ukraine and abroad

5

books published within the PEN Ukraine Library series

over

700

mentions of the work of PEN Ukraine in the media

over

130

partners

ACHIEVEMENTS

On November 22, 2024, three organizations from Ukraine – **PEN Ukraine, Lviv Media Forum and Rubryka media** – received the **Democracy Courage Tribute** within the Global Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy in Johannesburg, South Africa. With this award, the Ukrainian civil society was honored for its courageous activity in wartime, especially for documenting Russia’s war crimes against Ukraine, concurrent reform-oriented work, and promoting Ukrainians’ awareness and involvement.



"It is such an honor for me, for our team, and for the PEN community in Ukraine to receive this award in the presence of so many bright leaders from around the world devoted to the values of democracy. But I have to tell you that the majority of our cultural and human rights projects and campaigns since 2022 have been related to the legacy of our colleagues and friends killed by Russia. This is the work of remembrance, pain, and love. I want to dedicate this award to Ukrainian journalists, writers, and artists who were supposed to create a new Ukrainian culture, develop independent media, and build our democratic country after a long history of repressions — but who were taken by Russia, the same country that has worked for centuries to erase our culture and identity,"

Tetyana Teren,
executive director of PEN Ukraine



PEN UKRAINE SPACE



14a Lukyanivska St., Kyiv

PEN Ukraine Space has been functioning in Kyiv since August 2022. It's become one of the most active cultural and educational spaces in the city. **120 events** – presentations, discussions, poetry readings, literary and music home parties, exhibitions, theater play readings – have already taken place here. All the events at PEN Space are aimed at charitable support of Ukrainian Defense Forces.

For more information about the events at PEN Space, please visit the page “Cultural events. PEN Ukraine Space”



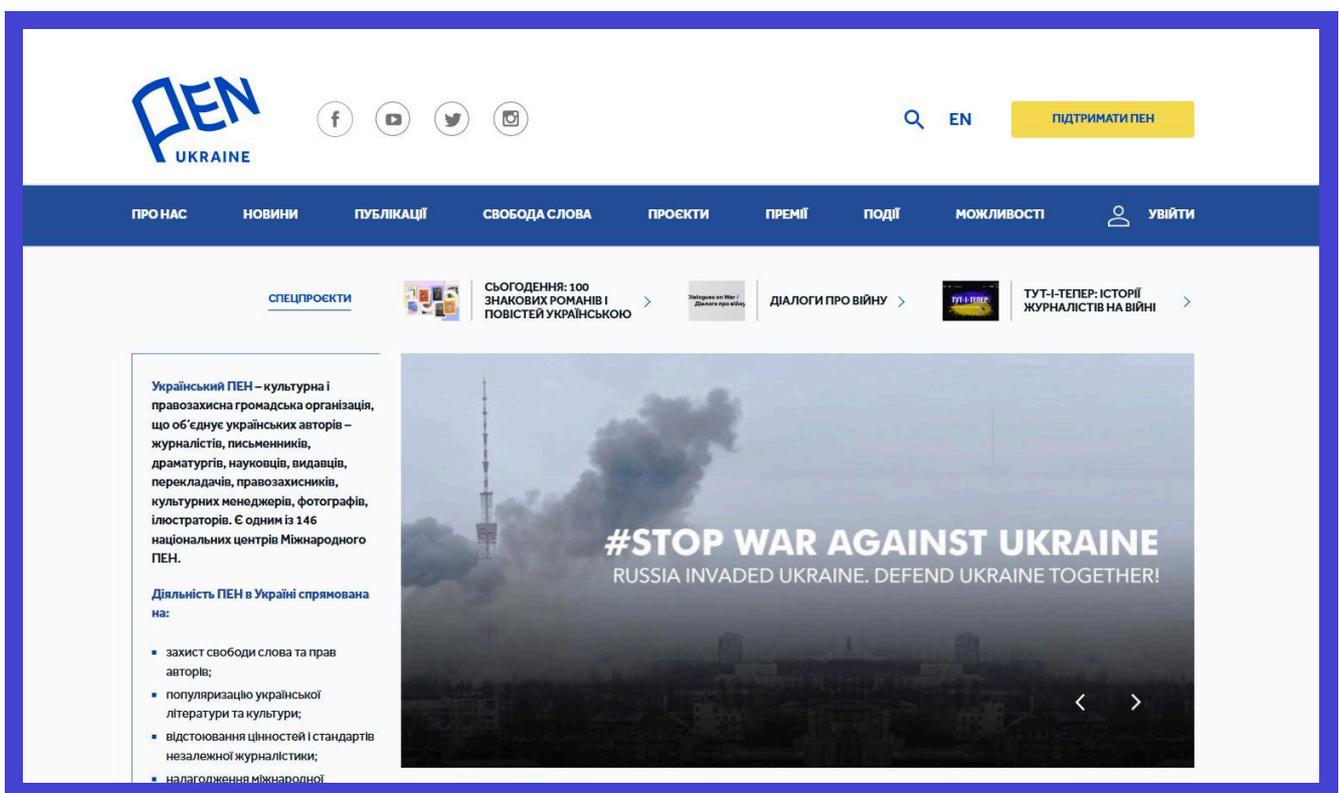
PEN UKRAINE WEBSITE

pen.org.ua

The PEN Ukraine team presented its new website in 2022. It aims not only inform the public about news and projects connected to the organization and the PEN community, but also to spread the word about the situation in Ukraine and Russian crimes against the media and culture worldwide and to share important texts and opportunities with authors and artists.

On the PEN Ukraine website, you can read articles, essays, reportages, interviews and poetry in the **Publications** section. The **Freedom of Speech** section offers information about cases of Ukrainian authors imprisoned by the Kremlin and constantly updated monitoring of losses among the people of culture and journalism. Short essays by PEN Ukraine authors can be found in the **Thoughts** section. In 2024, PEN developed a separate page for Propysy, the workshop festival for emerging authors: propysy.pen.org.ua/

In 2024, pages from the PEN Ukraine website had **4.42 million impressions** on Google. Over the course of the year, **128 news** articles and **117 publications** were published on the website.



Editor – Diana Delyurman

Technical support – Nadiia Borkovska, Oleksii Arykov

PEN BUS

Since August 2023, PEN Ukraine has got a bus to the disposal to take the administrative team and PEN authors to volunteering trips, transfer international delegations, and deliver books to libraries.

During 2024, the PEN bus made **11 trips** to the frontline and liberated territories of Ukraine and covered over **30,000 kilometers** of Ukrainian roads.



SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE FORCES OF UKRAINE

In November 2024, within the award ceremony UP 100. Leadership in the Conditions of War, media outlet Ukrainska Pravda hosted a charity auction sale. The list of items included a coat of General Valerii Zaluzhnyi which was sold for \$155,000. The money was transferred to the George Gongadze Prize Foundation.

The Prize team used the money to strengthen the protection of journalists who joined the Ukrainian Defense Forces. As military vehicles remain the most pressing need at the frontline, the George Gongadze Prize, PEN Ukraine, and Khvyliya Charity Foundation bought **6 off-road cars for press officers**.

6 press officers received the cars: **Serhii Takhmazov** (28th separate mechanized brigade), **Alla Koshliak** (13th brigade of the special forces within the National Guard of Ukraine), **Anastasiia Blyshchyk** (47th separate mechanized brigade), **Aliona Shiderova** (56th separate motorized brigade), **Dmytro Lazutkin** (59th separate motorized brigade), **Iryna Rybakova** (93rd separate mechanized brigade).



■ In 2024, PEN also purchased and delivered a power station and thermographic cameras for the soldiers of the 4th separate tank brigade in the Kharkiv region. **We thank our author and translator Iryna Dmytrychyn for her support.**



PEN transferred books and hosted two meetings with the soldiers of the 124th brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces in Kherson and delivered new books to the cultural center of the International Center of the National Guard of Ukraine, Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes, and the volunteering center in Kramatorsk.

Over UAH 300,000 was raised for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and volunteering organizations across charity events at PEN Ukraine Space in 2024.



PEN UKRAINE PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING THE UKRAINIAN LITERARY COMMUNITY

The fellowship program from the [Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translators Association and PEN Ukraine](#) is aimed at supporting Ukrainian writers and journalists who work in non-fiction genres and to help document the experience of the war that Ukrainian society has been living through since 2014 in documentary literature. Non-fiction genres include essays, biographies, reportages, interviews etc.

10 fellowships amounting to €5000 each (in UAH equivalent), will be granted within the program. Every fellow is expected to publish a non-fiction book prepared within the program through a Ukrainian publishing house no later than November 30, 2025.

The 2024 fellows of the program are:

- **Maksym Bespalov** (literary reportage book titled Artifacts ("Артефакти"))
- **Khrystyna Kotsira (Kutiepova)** (non-fiction book tentatively titled Missing ("Зниклі"))
- **Andrii Lyubka** (documentary book This Is Not to Be Forgotten ("Цього не можна забути"))
- **Kateryna Mikhalitsyna** (a book of stories of librarians from different Ukrainian cities about their personal experience of the Russian-Ukrainian war)
- **Svitlana Oslavska** (reportage book about occupation tentatively titled In Their Own Skin ("На власній шкірі"))
- **Yevheniia Podobna** (literary reportage book about the occupation of Bucha in February and March 2022 titled Shadows on Yablunska Street ("Тіні на вулиці Яблунській"))
- **Valerii Puzik** (book of essays titled Who We Were ("Ким ми були"))
- **Artem Chekh** (book of essays titled Dressing Up Game ("Гра в перевдягання"))
- **Lyubov Yakymchuk** (non-fiction book titled Tulips of Azovstal ("Тюльпани Азовсталі"))
- **Petro Yatsenko** (non-fiction book titled Hotel War ("Готель"Війна"))

Submissions were evaluated by a Jury consisting of **Tamara Hundorova, Yurii Prokhasko, Oksana Forostyna, Mariya Tytarenko, Dmytro Krapyvenko, Bernhard L. Mohr, and Atle Grønn.**

In March 2024, a poetry translation workshop **Phrases: New Poets in Translation** took place in Ivano-Frankivsk during the second edition of the Propysy Festival. Four finalists of the festival's professional program – **Ivan Hnativ, Iryna Kupchynska, Yuliana Lesniak and Illia Rudiiko** – participated in the workshop. For two months, they worked with four poets from the Scottish side on mutual translation of their poetry, Alyson Kisner, Rachel Rankin, Rebecca Ferrier, and Robbie MacLeòid, and presented their achievements in March at Propysy in Ivano-Frankivsk and at a joint event with StAnza in St. Andrews. All the workshop participants were also granted fellowships amounting to **GBP 300.**

After the end of the Propysy Festival, two of the workshop participants, **Iryna Kupchynska and Illia Rudiiko** – were invited to an international residency at Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre in the Scottish Highlands to work together with their Scottish colleagues Robbie MacLeòid and Rebecca Ferrier.

The fellowship program was made possible by the partnership of PEN Ukraine with StAnza and Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre and was supported by the UK/Ukraine Creative Partnerships program established by the British Council and Ukrainian Institute.

PEN Ukraine also granted **7 fellowships** generally amounting to **UAH 220,000** within PEN Ukraine Emergency Fund.



Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

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.

The project is aimed at:

- giving the sense of context and understanding of life circumstances in nowadays 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 within the Unbreakable Libraries campaign
- documenting Russia's crimes against Ukrainian culture

During 2024, **11 volunteering trips** of PEN Ukraine to the Dnipro, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk, Poltava, Sumy, and Mykolaiv took place.

54 PEN Ukraine employees and authors, along with international writers and journalists, partook in the trips.

53 events at libraries and meetings with servicepeople and volunteers took place within the program. PEN Ukraine transferred a thermographic camera, power station, power banks, medicine, and books to volunteers and military units.

Coordinator – Maksym Sytnikov

In 2024, the initiative was supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.



UNBREAKABLE LIBRARIES

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

According to the data from the National Yaroslav Mudryi Library of Ukraine, **about 1,000 libraries** have been totally (131) or partly ruined (about 750 in urgent need of renovation) since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. Over the course of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian libraries have lost over 1.5 million books.

With support from foreign partners, Ukrainian publishers, and concerned Ukrainians, PEN Ukraine collects and sends new books in Ukrainian and English languages to libraries in liberated and frontline territories. In 2024, publishing houses such as **Thames & Hudson, Dukh-i-Litera, Komubook, Pabulum**, organizations such as **BookArsenal, CrimeanHouse, Ukraïner, Irish PEN and Dutch PEN, and Greenhouse VDNH** became partners of the program.

In 2024, PEN Ukraine has purchased and delivered over **2,000 books** for a total amount of **UAH 600,000** to Russia-damaged libraries.

The program covered the Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Kherson, Chernihiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

PEN also organized all-Ukrainian book donations for damaged libraries which resulted in about **700 books** gathered for Snihurivka (Mykolaiv region), Barvinkove (Kharkiv region), and Novovorontsovka (Kherson region).

Additionally, PEN provided the personnel of the 124th brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces in Kherson, International Center of the National Guard of Ukraine, students of Lviv Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes, the volunteering center in Kramatorsk, and the Book Shelter project in Kherson with new books.



SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

Coordinators – Alisa Bondarenko, Anastasiia Yevstratenko

UNBREAKABLE LIBRARIES

In November 2023, PEN Ukraine launched a partnership with Book Aid International. Overall, we have received **52,000 books** in English from leading British publishing houses to our warehouse in Kyiv.

Like the previous donation from 2023, this second donation included mostly children's and young adult literature, workbooks for studying English, fiction and non-fiction books for adults. These, in particular, were the titles from leading British publishing houses such as **Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, Hachette, HarperCollins, Oxford University Press, Pan Macmillan, Pineapple Lane, Simon & Schuster, Yale University Press**, etc..

30,000 books have already been delivered to libraries in the Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Donetsk, Dnipro, Kropyvnytskyi, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Poltava, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions.



"Book Aid International supports the Unbreakable Libraries project because much of our work focuses on conflict-affected communities, where people may not have access to books due to the destruction of libraries or internal displacement. Around the world we donate books to help replenish lost library collections, to ensure education and study can continue, or simply to offer the comfort and solace of getting lost in a good story,"

Alison Tweed,
Chief Executive of Book Aid International



Coordinator – Anastasiia Yevstratenko

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, the UK, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Croatia, France, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Latvia, the Netherlands, India, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia, and Indonesia.

In 2024, PEN hosted **5 delegations** from the Global South for visits to Ukraine. Overall, **65 authors** have visited Ukraine through the program.



"What struck me the most about Ukraine was how war can so transform all dimensions of a country's social, working, family and cultural life. I observe that cultural organizations have become human rights organizations involved in the war from their place. Companies collaborate and get involved in the war effort. People, their habits and their ideas, are marked and influenced by the presence of a common enemy, by the death of loved ones, by the struggle to survive, to the point that they seem to move and test their innermost convictions,"

Ignacio de Casas,

human rights activist, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Austral University (Buenos Aires).



"I was struck by the fact that the current war is an existential battle for Ukrainians. Not ideological, but internal and personal. So many people described the Russian attack as an attempt to destroy them, not only physically but also culturally. People are afraid of losing their inner sense of what it is like to be Ukrainian"

Anjan Sundaram,
Indian journalist



"The visit has fundamentally changed my perspective on the war and the motivation of the Russians. I feel that I have a much deeper understanding of what is at stake. I had not understood the extent to which Ukraine has always had an independent and discreet culture of its own, and must defend this against Russian aggressive assimilation,"

Andrew Brown,
a lawyer and police reservist

Coordinators – Maksym Sytnikov, Anna Vovchenko

In 2024, the program was implemented with support from the Open Society Foundation, International Renaissance Foundation, and Prague Civil Society Centre.

DOCUMENTING RUSSIA'S WAR CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN MEDIA AND CULTURE

MONITORING OF RUSSIA'S WAR CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN CULTURAL ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALISTS

Materials of the two monitoring projects – [Journalists at War](#) and [People of Culture Taken Away by the War](#) – are based on the news 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 2024, the death of 96 Ukrainian and foreign journalists and of 153 Ukrainian cultural activists has been registered in the monitoring.

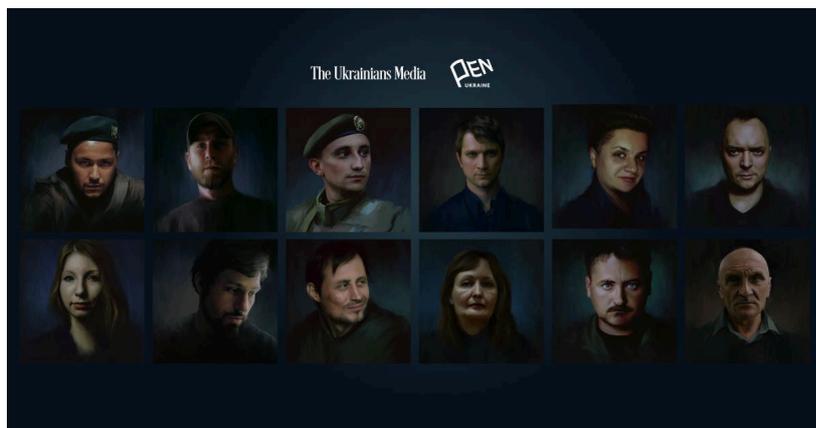
Editor – Diana Delyurman

PEOPLE OF CULTURE TAKEN AWAY BY THE WAR

theukrainians.org/spec/peopleofculture

This joint project of PEN Ukraine and The Ukrainians Media has a dual purpose of preserving the memory of the people of Ukrainian culture killed in the war and testifying to Russia's genocidal intentions.

In 2024, **50 features both in Ukrainian and English languages** were prepared for the project.



This is a series of features written after intimate research of the deceased artists' legacies, interviews with their families, friends and colleagues, and trips across Ukraine.

Authors of the project: **Sasha Dovzhyk, Lena Kozar, Mariana Matveichuk, Hanna Ustynova, Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, Anna Romandash, Diana Delyurman, Julia Musakovska, Mariya Tytarenko, Yevheniia Podobna, Olena Vysokolian, Tetiana Shelepko, Sofia Kochmar, Santana Preap, Tetyana Myronyshena, Khrystyna Shalak, Mariam Naiem, Olha Papash, Viktoriia Kalimbet, Larysa Babii.**



"This series of features represents the work of testimony and memory and an attempt of preventing the cases of Russia-killed Ukrainian cultural activists from being lost in the obscurity of the genocidal war. Studying the works of those who are never again going to create something new in our culture closely and talking to their families, friends, and colleagues – this is what helps to trace the outline of a loss or sometimes even to find a new motion vector afterwards,"

Sasha Dovzhyk,
project co-curator



READ THE STORIES



"This series of texts is transforming cultural losses in wartime from bare statistics into word monuments. Every deceased one becomes a hero to their fellow citizens – a hero in their own way. Yet they are all heroes even before they get killed. They are all heroes of their own stories, be it a story of a street musician or a professional conductor who opposed Russian occupation. It's for a certain reason that this project's title begins with the word 'people'. We strive to remember the deceased in their whole vulnerability, speak in their names and remind the living about what they still must do for their sake,"

Mariana Matveichuk,
project co-curator

Curators – Sasha Dovzhyk, Mariana Matveichuk

Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

REQUIEM: ONLINE MEMORIAL OF THE DECEASED JOURNALISTS

journalistsmemorial.gongadzeprize.com.ua



Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, 95 Ukrainian and international journalists have been killed in Ukraine.

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



READ THE STORIES

Coordinators – Diana Delyurman, Anastasiia Abramets

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.

7 issues were prepared during the year 2024.

Authors — Maksym Sytnikov, Diana Delyurman, editor – Christopher Atwood

STOP WAR AGAINST UKRAINE WEBPAGE

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 informational sources, petitions, statements and appeals, compilations of publications about Ukraine in English, and books by Ukrainian authors recommended for translation.



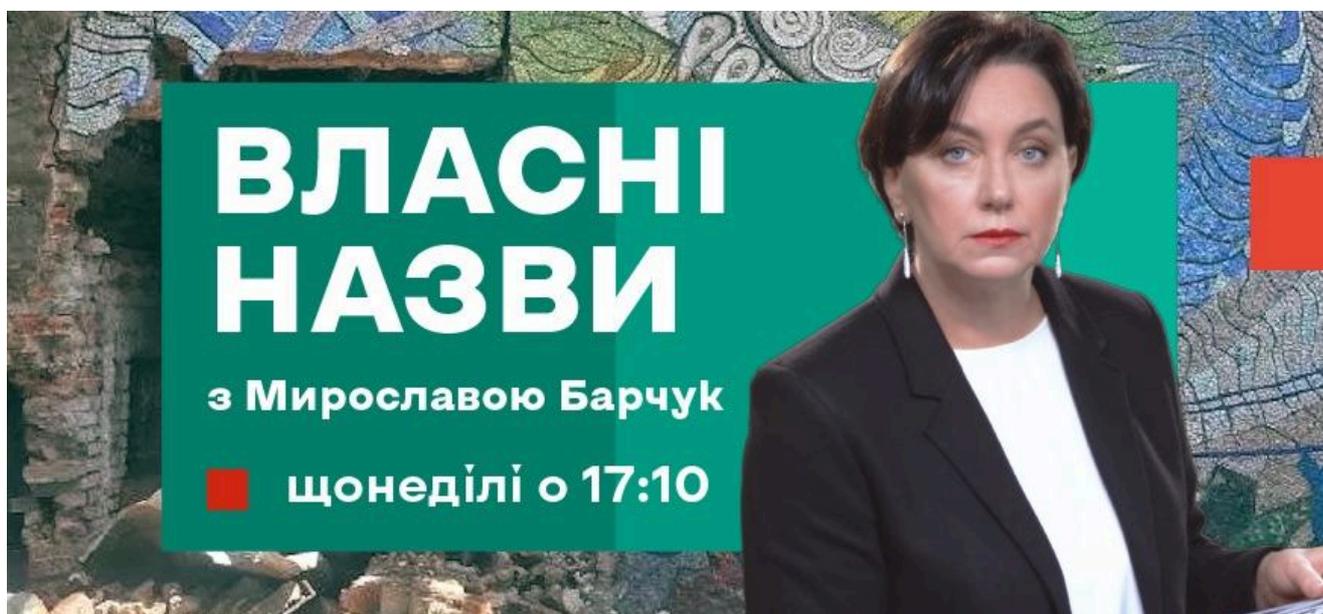
Editors – Diana Delyurman, Maksym Sytnikov

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 frames them.

2024 marked the third season of the project. Its author and host **Myroslava Barchuk** says that the idea of the program has remained unchanged since the beginning of the full-scale invasion and consists of comprehending the cultural legacy that was erased from the memories of generations memory while reconsidering important phenomena, figures, and events that were destroyed or forbidden by the empire.

6 episodes of the program were published in 2024. The project has been renewed for 2025.



Supported by Mykola Sushko Foundation.



"My primary decision for this season was to talk with my guests through the optics of decolonization, given that forbiddances and repressions that Ukrainians suffered for centuries left a deep scar on our psyche and self-presentation. The differences between the colonizers and the colonized did not have the racial character in our case, but they did bear other signs which means that we are still going through the postcolonial trauma. It's only now that the discussion on the issues of the empire and the colony starts in Ukraine. I do not think we should ignore or be ashamed to talk about Ukraine's colonial experience,"

Myroslava Barchuk,

TV presenter, vice president of PEN Ukraine

In 2024, PEN Ukraine and Chytomo media continued the work on the special project **Words and Bullets**. This is a series of conversations with Ukrainian writers and journalists who chose to take up arms or become volunteers after the beginning of 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.

In 2024, 5 stories were published, namely those of **Yevhen Lir, Mykola Shpakovskyi, Yaroslav Korniev, Liza Zharikova, and Yurii Matevoshchuk**.

PEN Ukraine and The Ukrainians Media launched the podcast titled **The Hardcover ("Paliturka")** hosted by radio presenter, folklorist, and musician Zakhar Davydenko. The project is dedicated to reconsidering the school program of literature. While in school, everyone must solve many existential problems from the right choice of clothes to self-identification. This makes it difficult for many to closely read Panas Myrnyi or Lesia Ukrainka.

Producer – Alisa Bondarenko



"This podcast is designed exactly for people like that. My aim of talking to professional readers is to help the audience to better understand or rediscover the books that did not touch many in our school years,"

Zakhar Davydenko,
the podcast host

The Hardcover consists of **10 episodes.**

Guests of the podcast: **Bogdana Romantsova, Kateryna Kalytko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Rostyslav Semkiv, Roman Malynovskyi, Vira Kuryko, Anastasiia Yevdokymova, Oleksandr Mykhed, Vadym Karpiak, and Yevhenii Stasinevych.**



LISTEN

■ Together with Suspilne: Culture and the Telegraf, PEN Ukraine announced **a focus topic for 2025**. Throughout the year, we will publish essays of our authors and leading Ukrainian intellectuals on the topic of Our Being in the World.

The timeliness and importance "Our Being in the World" as the focus topic for 2025 is explained by PEN Ukraine President **Volodymyr Yermolenko:**



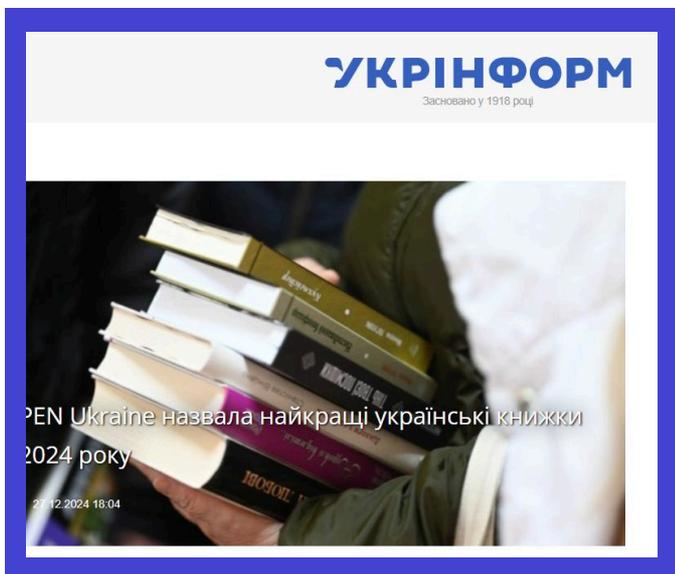
"For the sake of our own being, we must struggle now for having our voice heard. For having our face recognized, our stories considered, and our land admitted as righteously ours, without dissent.

Still, while striving to being discovered by other cultures, we also discover other cultures for ourselves. While striving to being discovered by the world, we rediscover the world for ourselves.

We struggle for the fact that the world's existence is impossible without Ukraine's existence to be understood. We struggle for not our mere existence solely, but for our own place on the world map"

Coordinator of the focus topic – Anna Vovchenko

The best books of 2024 according to PEN Ukraine. For 7 years, members of PEN Ukraine have been compiling an annual list of the year's best books. The list traditionally included prose and poetry books, non-fiction, children's literature, art and humanitarian books. In 2024, it totaled **201 books.**



PROJECTS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH

■ **Letters to Free Crimea** is a joint campaign of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, PEN Ukraine and the Centre for Human Rights ZMINA

The initiative is aimed at encouraging Ukrainians and foreigners to send letters of support to Crimean political prisoners illegally held by Russia. These letters constitute also a message to the Russian penitentiary management that every citizen of Ukraine is important, and the society closely watches their detention conditions.

According to information from the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, **218 political prisoners from Crimea are being held in Russian captivity** as of December 2024. **132 of them are Crimean Tatars.**

Since 2023, **1611 paper letters and e-mails** have been received through the campaign.



"Under such conditions, political prisoners' families feel isolated too. Those who have never experienced such injustice do not always know how to behave properly. A letter of support can serve as a tool for a prisoner to integrate back into the normal dialogue. It gives the possibility of at least simple deed, not just staying captured by dysphoric inaction,"

Larysa Denysenko,

human rights activist, ambassador of political prisoner Remzi Bekirov



On November 15, PEN Ukraine and the Center for Civil Liberties co-organized an annual human rights event for **Empty Chairs Day**. Held on Sofivska Square in Kyiv, the event was aimed at paying tribute to imprisoned, captive and missing artists and human rights activists.

A symbolic installation of empty chairs with the names of imprisoned, captive and missing authors, artists, human rights and media activists who are unable to be with us due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine lasting since 2014 was set up during the event. The chairs were partly filled with plaques marked 'Name Unknown' because many names of imprisoned, captive and missing Ukrainians remain unidentified.



"I want us to be united and helpful to everyone who needs us. Events like Empty Chairs are not only held in support of prisoners and their families. This is also a test for our society. This is a reminder that the war we are waging for our freedom preserves empathetic, caring and persevering humans in us,"

Nariman Celal,
deputy chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people,
ex-prisoner of the Kremlin



Memorial event of Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna (October 11)

The George Gongadze Prize, PEN Ukraine and hromadske call upon all concerned to attend a memorial event of Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna who died in Russian captivity.

The journalist allegedly died while being transferred from Taganrog to Moscow. Victoria ended up in captivity in August 2023, while performing her job on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

GEORGE GONGADZE COMMEMORATION WEEK

On September 16-22, the George Gongadze Prize team launched the first **George Gongadze commemoration week** in Kyiv.

During the commemoration, **temporary alley in memory of George Gongadze was installed** on Kontraktova Square in Kyiv. The alley consisted of information banners about the journalist's life and activity and was aimed at illustrating George's contributions into the development of democratic Ukraine, its civic society, and spreading Ukrainian narratives worldwide.



"For me, the story of Gia Gongadze is that about people of compromise and people of self-sacrifice. I am sure that George was surrounded by many colleagues who chose the way of silence and evasion of helping him. Volodymyr Yermolenko, president of PEN Ukraine, said that the balance of two ethical systems – the one of exchange and the another of struggle – is of crucial importance for any society,"

Myroslava Barchuk,
journalist, TV presenter and vice president of PEN Ukraine

The commemoration week also included meetings of professional journalists with students in Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lutsk and Kyiv.



MEDIA DAYS OF THE GEORGE GONGADZE PRIZE

On November 14-16, the annual conference titled **Media days of the George Gongadze Prize** was held at Kyiv Mohyla Business School. The conference was designed for leading journalists, editors, media managers, communication managers, and business representatives to reflect on challenges and tendencies in Ukrainian and international media environment.

Among the conference topics for 2024, were censorship and self-censorship in wartime, the role of media in mediation and reintegration of the society, approaches for reducing media traumatization, the role of social media and messengers, covering the war amidst misinformation and disinformation.

Overall, 8 events involving 38 speakers took place during the 3-day conference. Among the speakers there were **Anton Drobovych, Roman Romaniuk, Liudmyla Dolhonovska, Oksana Moroz, Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, Ilona Dovhan, Kateryna Kobernyk, Andrii Boborykin, Larysa Denysenko, Myroslava Gongadze, Tetyana Troshchynska, Anhelina Kariakina, Danylo Mokryk, Yevheniia Podobna, Olha Rudenko, Heorhii Tykhyi, Nariman Celal, Vlasta Lazur, Oksana Romaniuk, Otar Dovzhenko, Ihor Rozkladai, Maryna Starodubska, Mariia Górska, Valentyna Sotnykova, Jerzy Wójcik (Poland), Gulliver Cragg (France)** etc.

Maksym Butkevych, human rights activist, journalist and military serviceman, took part in the Media days by giving his first speech after being released from Russian captivity.





"The most important mission of the George Gongadze Prize is to form and unite our community which bears our common values and common understanding of where we want to move and what kind of journalism we want to have in Ukraine,"

Tetyana Teren,
executive director of PEN Ukraine



Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Team: Mykhailo Taran, Vladyslav Zinkevych, Nastia Abramets, Olena Chemerys

FREE VOICES OF CRIMEA

Back in 2021, PEN Ukraine, The Ukrainians Media, Centre for Human Rights ZMINA, and Vivat Publishing House began to work on a book that continued the #SolidarityWords campaign launched by PEN Ukraine and ZMINA in support of politically imprisoned authors in occupied Crimea.

This led to a series of 16 features profiling politically imprisoned civic journalists. The project team tells the stories of their lives, detention, and imprisonment.

The special project includes the stories of **Nariman Celal** (released from Russian captivity on June 28, 2024, after his feature was published), **Vladyslav Yesypenko**, **Amet Suleymanov**, **Server Mustafayev**, **Iryna Danylovych**, **Asan Ahtem**, **Osman Arifmemetov**.

Voices of Free Crimea is a project aimed at drawing public attention to the cases of Ukrainian hostages of Crimea. Each text is designed to keep Ukrainians focused on the stories of Crimean journalists, illegally imprisoned by the Russian occupation authorities. Another project's goal is advocacy and consists in facilitating the international pressure on Russia to liberate the political prisoners

Authors of the texts: **Oleksandra Yefymenko**, **Iryna Slavinska**, **Olesya Yaremchuk**, **Vira Kuryko**, **Rushem Halilov**, **Olha Dukhnych**, **Yevheniia Henova**.

All the texts in both Ukrainian and English languages were published on The Ukrainians website. In 2025, Vivat Publishing House is going to make a book of them.



Supported by the National Endowment For Democracy (NED).

*Compilers – Olesya Yaremchuk and Inna Bereznitska,
editor – Anastasiia Levkova*

STATEMENTS AND APPEALS

[Statement of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations on the threat to democracy and human rights in Georgia](#) (May)

[Ukraine must win this war: Resolution of the VIII Regional Meeting of PEN Centres](#) (May)

[PEN Ukraine supported the statement of the Media Movement against pressure on the independent Ukrainian media Texty](#) (June)

[Statement on the murder of journalist Viktoriya Roshchyna](#) (October)

[We are here for you: PEN Ukraine statement in support of the people of Georgia](#) (December)

[PEN Ukraine Executive Board's statement in support of journalist Cecilia Sala](#) (December)

CULTURAL PROJECTS

Smart Foundation and PEN Ukraine continued the series of meetings with Ukrainian intellectuals at the modern Smart Prostir Library in the Poltava region. In 2024, the participants of the project were writers such as **Andrii Lyubka and Vladimir Arsenijevic, Yevheniia Podobna, Anastasiia Levkova, Svitlana Taratorina.**



Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

On May 30 – June 2, PEN Ukraine presented a special program during the Book Arsenal Festival. The program bore the title **Duration of the Voice** and included **6 events** during which we reflected on how the Ukrainian voice sounds in wartime, what can it tell us about our past, our present, and our future, and spoke about whether we hear our own voice and whether it is heard outside.

Among the events that took place within the program: a presentation of poetry and music performance *Ukrainian Fatigue* by Kateryna Kalytko and Maryana Sadovska; literary readings of the participants of the II workshop festival *Propysy*; a presentation of the anthology *Dialogues on War*; a meeting of Ukrainian and Bosnian authors within the project *Report from the Future*; a conversation about damaged Ukrainian libraries, and a musical and poetry tribute to the deceased Ukrainian poets *Opus Doloris. Polyphony* by Olesya Zdorovetska.



Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

PEN Ukraine became organization partner of the **II festival Protasiv Yar** in remembrance of Roman Ratushnyi. The festival took place in Kyiv for 4 days in June-September 2024.

The festival was founded in 2023 by the Protecting Protasiv Yar NGO and the Protasiv Yar community with support from the International Renaissance Foundation. In 2024, it was co-organized by the Publishers' Forum NGO. The cultural manager and program director of the Book Forum Sofia Cheliak became the festival's executive director. Organization partners – PEN Ukraine and Ivan Honchar Museum.

The festival has traditionally included several tracks: artistic (concerts, poetry readings), democracy and human rights (discussions, conversations, lectures, documentary film screenings), and history (lectures, sightseeing tours).



■ PEN Ukraine also continued supporting new cultural festivals in the regions of Ukraine. For the second time, we became partners of the **VydelkaFest** (Chornomorsk) in July and were involved as partners in the **Land of Poets** festival (Lviv) initiated by **Maryana Savka** and coordinated by **Olha Olkhova** and **Olena Pavlova**.

■ For the first time, in anticipation of the Vasyl Stus Prize ceremony, we organized a range of events to commemorate the poet in collaboration with the Kyiv Mohyla Business School. Among the speakers there were **Maryan Pyrih**, **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, **Ivanna Krypiakevych-Dymyd**, **Volodymyr Vyatrovych**.



In October, PEN Ukraine supported the **Literary Park and Friends** festival launched by the Stop Illegal Development initiative in Kyiv. **The cooperation was made possible thanks to Kateryna Zarembo.**

VI ESSAYS DAYS FESTIVAL

The festival took place on December 12-15 at Kyiv Mohyla Business School and included discussions, lectures and conversations with Ukrainian essayists. Among the participants of the festival there were **Ostap Slyvynsky, Borys Filonenko, Bohdan Kolomiichuk, Oleksandr Savchuk, Kateryna Zarembo, Andrii Lyubka, Myroslav Laiuk, Oksana Forostyna, Taras Pastukh, Bohdana Matiash, Yurko Prokhasko, Roksolana Sviato, Iryna Tsilyk, Daria Badior, Serhii Ksaverov, Mariia Stoianova, Iryna Slavinska.**

The festival's focus topic in 2024 was **The Value of Duration**. Overall, 8 events took place within the festival.





"We seem to long for others' essays today, though our reading intensity is still something new for us. We bear a passionate wish to pass between someone's fiction and documentary testimony. For us, this passion turns into a deed to search for new reliance and new vision of reality, supported by our pain and resistance, our remembrance and forgetfulness,"

Orysia Hrudka,
curator of the festival

Curator – Orysia Hrudka.
Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

II PROPYSY FESTIVAL

II Propysy workshop festival for emerging authors took place on March 6-10 in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Finalists of the Propysy 2024: **Anfisa Doroshenko, Ivan Hnativ, Olha Zaiets, Mykyta Kiliarov, Viktoriia Klymchuk-Dluchach, Iryna Kupchynska, Iryna Kurhanska, Yuliana Lesniak, Svitlana Libet, Iryna Martsyniuk, Illia Rudiiko, Anna Siedykh, Yaroslava Skorbach, Anna Yutchenko, Anna Yabluchna.**

The participants of the festival attended leading writers and book critics' lectures and workshops. Among the mentors there were **Oleksandr Mykhed, Myroslav Laiuk, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Bohdana Neborak, Svitlana Taratorina, Maryana Savka, Tetyana Teren, Askold Melnychuk (USA), Christopher Merrill (USA) and Rachel DeWoskin (USA).**

Additionally, the young authors had an opportunity to attend individual classes with experienced mentors such as **Taras Prokhasko, Julia Musakovska, Mariya Tytarenko, Rostyslav Semkiv** and film screenings with **Roman Malynovskyi.**

Overall, the festival program included **30 professional events**, 3 film screenings and 5 public events.



"Our goal was to create an environment based on equality and inclusion, so that participants could feel coequal in literary process without insurmountable barriers,"

Ostap Slyvynsky,
festival curator



"The Propysy festival is primarily about community, its development, communication, and ties; it's about spiritual and territorial unity because we all were in Ivano-Frankivsk. For me, it's mainly about unity, identity, and bright communication with motivated people who want to talk about what's important in life and, most important, they do talk about what's important,"

Iryna Martsyniuk,
poet, participant of the festival

The festival resulted in an anthology which included poetry, prose, and reflections about the Propysy 2024 from 15 authors. The almanac was presented during the XII Book Arsenal Festival as part of PEN Ukraine's special program Duration of the Voice.

Within the festival, a poetry translation workshop **Phrases: New Poets in Translation**, took place in Ivano-Frankivsk and was made possible by the partnership of PEN Ukraine with StAnza and Moniack Mhor, Scotland's Creative Writing Centre and was supported by the UK/ Ukraine Creative Partnerships program established by the British Council and Ukrainian Institute. Four finalists of the festival's professional program – **Ivan Hnativ, Iryna Kupchynska, Yuliana Lesniak and Illia Rudiiko** – participated in the workshop. For two months, they worked with four poets from the Scottish side on mutual translation of their poetry.

Two of the workshop participants, **Iryna Kupchynska and Illia Rudiiko** – were later invited to an international residency at Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre in the Scottish Highlands to work together with their Scottish colleagues and participate in creative and translation workshops.

II Propysy Festival was implemented with support from the Media Development Fund Program of the U. S. Embassy in Ukraine. Information partners – Suspilne:Culture, Sensor Media and Radio Culture.



*Curator – Ostap Slyvynsky
Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko*

LACEWORK

In 2024, the 4th season of the Lacework project included meetings with authors in the regions of Chernihiv (Horodnia, Koriukivka), Volyn (Novovolynsk, Kovel), Zhytomyr (Zviahel, Berdychiv, Korosten, Korostyshiv), Lviv (Sambir, Truskavets), Poltava (Orzhytsia, Lubny), Rivne (Hoshcha, Kostopil), and Transcarpathia (Khust, Vynohradiv).

Participants of the trips: **Bohdana Neborak, Myroslav Laiuk, Olena Huseinova, Olya Rusina, Rostyslav Semkiv, Khrystyna Morozova, Iryna Starovoyt, Tanya Kasyan, Liudmyla Taran, Teodoziia Zarivna, Olha Kupiyan, Anna Vovchenko, Olena Rybka, Slava Svitova, Kateryna Zarembo, Svitlana Povaliaieva.**

In 2024, the project covered 7 regions, 16 towns and included 16 authors.

PEN Ukraine launched the Lacework project in 2019. The project is mainly aimed at enhancing the prestige of reading in Ukraine's district centers, introducing residents of Ukrainian towns to contemporary Ukrainian literature, and including them in one cultural field along with big cities.



"Culture is able to stitch the wounds, that's why it must be available to everyone in need of it. The Lacework project is focused on lesser towns with few cultural events. Among the participant authors there were women actively involved in volunteering, a woman who lost her husband at war, a woman whose husband is still fighting, an author who wrote a book about Bakhmut after many trips to the hottest spots, an author whose pro-Ukrainian parents have stayed in Mariupol after surviving its worst tragedies. These authors share their experience and their thoughts, help the citizens of lesser towns to comprehend what's going on and remain open to others,"

Anastasiia Levkova,
the project curator



Coordinators – Anastasiia Levkova, Mariya Tytarenko, Olena Pavlova

Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.

EVENTS AT PEN UKRAINE SPACE

- In 2024, 80 events – discussions, presentations, poetry readings, concerts, photo exhibitions, book clubs, theater play readings, workshops, music home parties, film screenings – took place at PEN Ukraine Space (Kyiv, Lukyanivska St., 14a)
- This year, we organized **8 literary and music charitable home parties** and **2 music events** - “I Will Be Alive. Horytsvit” and “Christmas Concert of Telnyuk. Sisters”.



Coordinator – Anastasiia Yevstratenko

- In 2024, the Docudays UA film club continued its work at PEN Ukraine. **9 documentaries** from the Docudays archive and films such as **The Cormorant War** (jointly with Babylon'13) and **How Ukrainians Started Speaking Ukrainian** (jointly with Ukraïner) were screened within the project.



Coordinator – Alisa Bondarenko

In 2024, the PEN Book Club began its work. **10 book talks** were held at our space involving Maryna Ponomarenko, Marysia Nikitiuk, Rostyslav Semkiv, Yaryna Chornohuz, Tetyana Ogarkova, Sofia Cheliak, Ahha Gruver, Bohdana Romantsova, Roksolana Sviato, Andrii Bondar, Taras Lyuty, Olena Huseinova, Vira Kuryko, Olena Sheremet, Oleksandr Mykhed, Roman Holubovskyi, Myroslav Laiuk, Ostap Slyvynsky, Haska Shyyan, Roman Yasinovskyi, Bohdana Neborak, Iryna Slavinska and Olha Aivazovska.



Curator – Anna Vovchenko

For the first time, we organized **2 theater events** in partnership with the **Playwrights Theater** and **2 workshops** of making Easter eggs and creating traditional Ukrainian necklaces within the photo exhibition of Alla “Ruta” Pushkarchuk at our space.



We organized new events in English language involving foreign speakers in partnership with **UkraineWorld**. Among our guests, for example, there were **Henry Marsh, Timothy Garton Ash, Thierry Piel**. Additionally, we invited our audience to public discussions with authors from India, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Hungary and Slovakia who visited Ukraine as part of the **In Solidarity With Ukraine** program.



We also organized public talks with **Myroslav Marynovych, Valeriia "Nava" Subotina, Nariman Celal, Taras Lyuty and Josyf Zisels**. Poetry readings and book presentations of **Iryna Tsilyk, Rostyslav Kuzyk, Iya Kiva, Maryana Savka, Stanislav Asieiev, Mykola Vorobyov, Mykola Leonovych, Liudmyla Taran, Teodoziia Zarivna, Dmytro Lazutkin** etc., also took place at our space. It was of great importance for us to be involved in the organization of events in memoriam of **Ihor Kozlovskyyi, Hennadii Afanasiev, Andrii Hudyma and Oleksandr Zakernychnyi**.



In 2024, **3 exhibitions** in memoriam of Russia-killed Ukrainian artists were opened at PEN Ukraine Space: **A Struggle for the Landscape of Your Own (Denys Kryvyi)**, **Sometimes I Photograph the War (Maksym "Dali" Kryvtsov)** and **Betelgeuse. A Necklace for Ruta (Alla "Ruta" Pushkarchuk)**.





More than **2,300 people** attended the events at our space.

All events at PEN Ukraine Space are aimed at supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine or volunteering organizations. Thus, we have supported Kult: Podcast, Animal Rescue Kharkiv, and the Maksym Kryvtsov Foundation.

THE OUTPOST FOR THE FUTURE

By the end of 2024, we launched a new cultural and educational project for cadets and students of military schools and institutes **The Outpost for the Future: Think, Impact, Prevail.**

This is a joint initiative of PEN Ukraine and the Center for Communication and Content Security. It's aimed at increasing the young military's awareness about Ukrainian culture. The project is going to constitute a series of cadets and students' meetings with contemporary Ukrainian intellectuals, writers, journalists and human rights defenders. The students are also going to be provided with the best books of contemporary and classic Ukrainian literature.

In 2024, writers **Volodymyr Kuznietsov and Volodymyr Biehlov** had talks with the students of the Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes.



"Our goal is to connect the future military elite of Ukraine with the culture of the country they are to take their oaths to, which is of much more importance during a war with an enemy who has tried to erase this culture for centuries. We are also planning to teach the youth to think critically and counteract propaganda and disinformation,"

Maksym Sytnikov,
the project coordinator



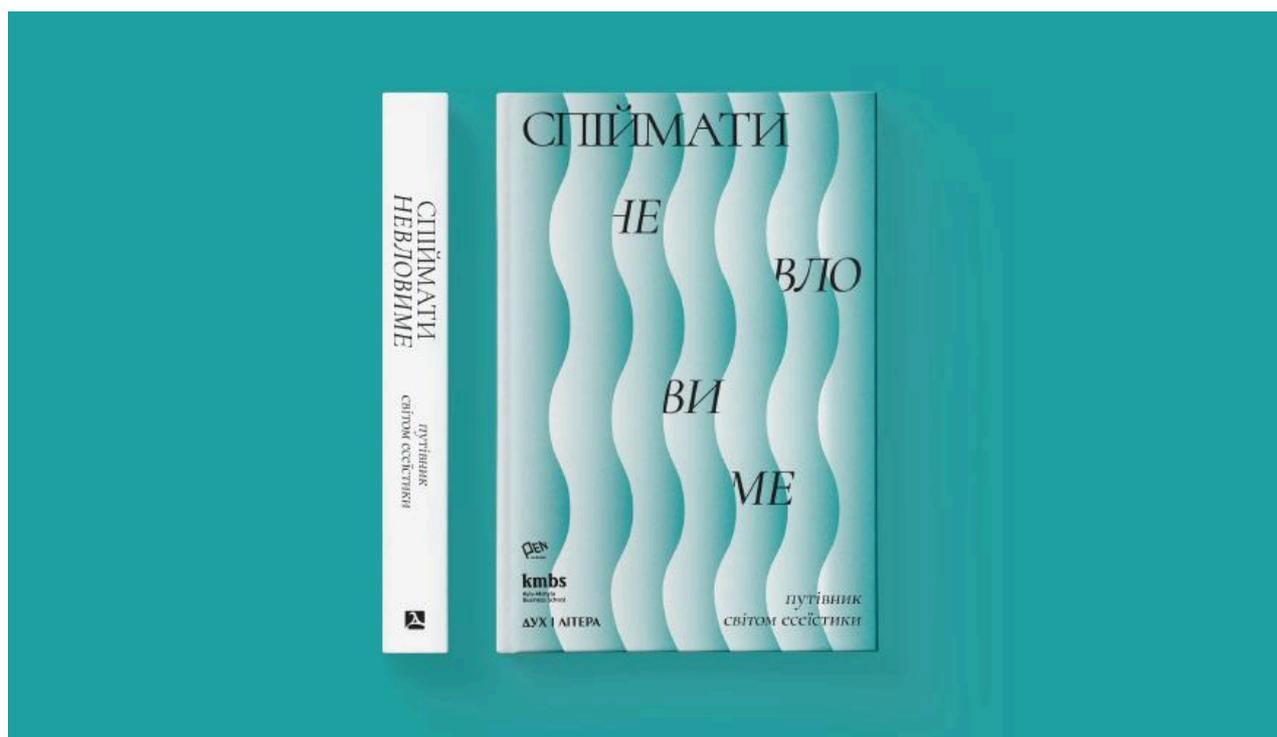
Coordinator – Maksym Sytnikov
Project manager – Anastasiia Levkova

PEN UKRAINE LIBRARY SERIES

Catching the Intangible. A Guide Through the World of Essays (Dukh-i-Litera)

The book sums up the five years of the Essays Days festival launched in 2018 within the Yuri Shevelyov Prize.

It included texts of the authors such as **Ola Hnatiuk, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Mykola Riabchuk, Taras Prokhasko, Vasyl Makhno, Andrii Liubka, Vira Aheieva, Yevhenii Stasinevych, Tamara Hundorova, Oleksandr Mykhed, Mariya Tytarenko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Andrii Bondar, Iryna Slavinska, Pavlo Kazarin, Vitalii Portnykov, Taras Lyuty, Martin Pollack, Diana Klochko, Serhii Zhadan, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Kateryna Radchenko, Sofia Andrukhovych, Yurko Prokhasko, Anatolii Dnistrovyi, Bohdan Kolomiichuk, Vitaly Chernetsky.**





“After five festival programs, including lectures, discussions, public interviews, presentations and commemorative events, we realized what important material we had gathered about the meaning, features and history of the essay genre. We decided to publish it as a separate book and deliberately call it a guide, not manual, because it’s in no way didactic and comprehensive,”

Tetyana Teren,
initiator of the Essays Days festival

Stories of Resilience by Anna Romandash



This brochure includes stories of ten Ukrainians who used words to maintain resilience and preserve culture in wartime. It was the culmination of a joint project of **English PEN and PEN Ukraine** called **Stories of Resilience**, supported by the **British Council** and the **Ukrainian Institute**. Ukrainian writer and journalist **Anna Romandash** served the project as author.

Die Zukunft, die wir uns wünschen (“The Future We Strive For”), Verlag

The book was prepared by PEN Ukraine in cooperation with the German translators’ union translit e.V and UkraineWorld media project.

The book consists of the texts of ten Ukrainian intellectuals who reflect on the future of Ukraine and the whole world, their dreams, fears, and connection between the future and the past. The list of the authors included **Kateryna Botanova, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Serhii Zhadan, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Andrii Kurkov, Taras Lyuty, Tania Maliarchuk, Taras Prokhasko, Yurko Prokhasko and Natalka Sniadanko.**

Curator of the anthology – philosopher, translator and essayist **Vakhtang Kebuladze**. Editor – professor of Slavic studies **Jutta Lindekugel**. Cover designer – **Viktoriiia Kuchma.**



"We wrote the book about our common future in 2020. This year is our past now. Today's present was an unknown future for us then. Today, though, it goes about our past, present and future at the same time,"

Vakhtang Kebuladze,
curator of the book



Almanac with the texts of the emerging authors who took part in the II Propysy Festival



The collection includes poetry, prose, and reflections on the Propysy Festival from the 15 emerging authors: **Anfisa Doroshenko, Ivan Hnativ, Olha Zaiets, Mykyta Kiliarov, Viktoriia Klymchuk-Dluchach, Iryna Kupchynska, Iryna Kurhanska, Yuliana Lesniak, Svitlana Libet, Iryna Martsyniuk, Illia Rudiiko, Anna Siedykh, Yaroslava Skorbach, Anna Yutchenko, Anna Yabluchna.** PDF and hard copies of the book are available.



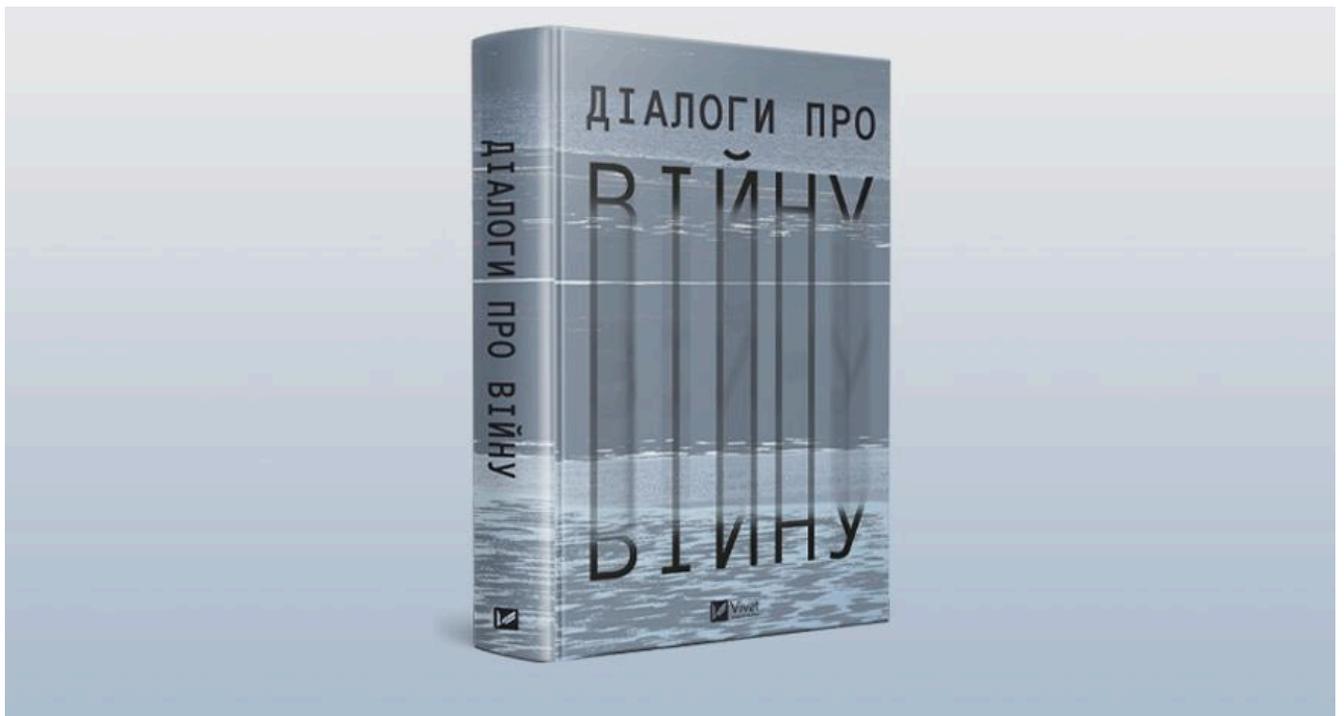
READ THE ALMANAC

Almanac Curator — Ostap Slyvynsky
Designer — Sofia Afanasieva

[Dialogues on War](#), Vivat

This is a collection of conversations between Ukrainian and foreign intellectuals on the war that shocked the world with its whole hypothetical order, on the horrible and seemingly unthinkable experience that Ukrainians are going through even in the 21st century, on stereotypes that have begun cracked but still are stuck tight to foreigners' minds, on how to survive and how to live on.

80 reputable Ukrainian and foreign authors and thinkers – among them [Anne Applebaum](#), [Myroslav Marynovych](#), [Edith Eger](#), [Volodymyr Yermolenko](#), [Timothy Snyder](#), [Victoria Amelina](#), [Orhan Pamuk](#), [Iryna Tsilyk](#), [Francis Fukuyama](#), [Oleksandr Mykhed](#), [Margaret Atwood](#) – searched live for the rights words to honestly talk about the war. These conversations, along with essays written by leading Ukrainian intellectuals, became parts of the book published in 2024.



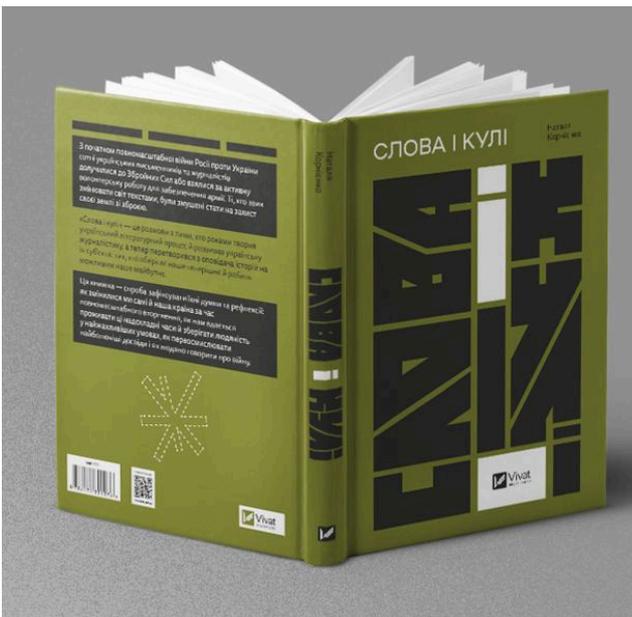


“Compassion, empathy, and the ability to take interest in someone else’s experience is something rare, something invisible, something never sufficient, even more valuable when it emerges for real. This book is a drop in the sea of such compassion. It includes moments of substantial reflection and moments of consubstantiation, moments of confusion and moments of uneasy silence, moments of overwhelming expectations and moments of belief in one’s own illusions. It also includes, however, digging-into-reality moments, mostly unpleasant but never sufficient when it comes to winning a war,”

Volodymyr Yermolenko,
president of PEN Ukraine

Project coordinator – Oksana Mamchenkova
Book Curator – Olha Mukha

Words and Bullets, Vivat.



Since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine, hundreds of Ukrainian writers and journalists enlisted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine or began actively work as volunteers to meet the needs of the army. Those who were used to changing the world by means of their texts, had to take up arms to defend their country.

The book consists of a series of conversations with people who had been developing the Ukrainian literary process and journalism for years but turned from narrators into protagonists of stories – those who protects our present and makes our future possible.



"The great war has changed us all. On February 24, 2022, we all woke up completely other human beings, forced to put in the extra mile to accept the new reality and find our own way of reacting to it. The protagonists of these conversations are writers and journalists who chose to take up arms to defend our country at the frontline or joined the volunteering movement. Many of them admit that on the first days of the full-scale invasion they were disappointed by what they had done before. Words turned out to be powerless against the hostile army and missile whistle. many weeks and months had passed before they rediscovered their language and regained the ability to write. We talked to them about all these changes and forced transformations, about fading and recovery, It is, after all, of crucial importance to testify to this war in our own language. If we don't do it ourselves, our enemies will do it for us."

Natalia Korniienko,
book author and curator

A joint project of PEN Ukraine and Chytomo, this book includes 24 interviews with Artem Chapeye, Dmytro Krupyvenko, Halyna Kruk, Anatolii Dnistrovyi, Oleksii Sinchenko, Victoria Amelina, Andrii Lyubka, Bohdan Kolomiichuk, Valerii Puzik, Petro Yatsenko, Ihor Mitrov, Yaryna Chornohuz, Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, Yevheniia Podobna, Maksym Kryvtsov, Maksym Skubenko, Tetyana Ogarkova and Volodymyr Yermolenko, Pavlo Stekh, Serhii Shebelist, Pavlo Vyshebaba, Dmytro Lazutkin, Lesya Hanzha, Fedir Shandor, and Oleksandr Mykhed.

Curator – Natalia Korniienko

PEN UKRAINE AWARDS

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 2024, the prize was awarded to journalist, radio presenter and producer **Tetyana Troshchynska**. The award ceremony took place on May 21 in Kyiv.

The Vasyl Stus Prize



was established in 1989 by the 2nd 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 2024, the prize was awarded to the director of Kharkiv Literary Museum **Tetyana Pylypchuk**. The award ceremony took place on September 10 in Kyiv.

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 2024, the prize was awarded to Polish translator **Katarzyna Kotyńska**. The award ceremony took place on April 23 in Kyiv.

Raul Chilachava, a translator from Ukrainian into Georgian, received a special distinction from the award for 'building Ukrainian-Georgian cultural bridges.'

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 2024, the prize was awarded to writer **Myroslav Laiuk** for his book Bakhmut («Бахмут»). **Vasyl Makno** was honored with the special award of the Chapter, while **Stanislav Asieiev** got the special award of UA:Radio Culture.

ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

- In autumn 2023, Ukrainian cultural and educational center Obiimy (cyprus) and PEN Ukraine launched a literary residency in Larnaca. Since then, **7 Ukrainian authors** have been granted an opportunity to work there.
- The exhibition of documentary photography and literature **Ukraine. Vision(s): Photographie documentaire et littérature en résistance** was opened in Paris in partnership with MYOP and the Ukrainian Institute (February).
- PEN Ukraine and Book Arsenal organized the poetry reading **Those Who Testify** within Vilnius Book Fair. Participants: **Julia Musakovska, Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, Iryna Shuvalova, Marius Burokas, Jurgita Jasponyte, Benediktas Janusevicius and Antanas A. Jonynas** (February).
- PEN Ukraine became partner of the literary and music event **Voices of Dignity: Poetry and Music from Ukraine** organized by the Ukrainian House in Denmark. Participants: **Kateryna Kalytko, Oleksandr Mykhed, Halyna Kruk, Iryna Tsilyk, Iryna Shuvalova, and Iya Kiva** (February).
- A series of lectures by **Volodymyr Yermolenko** at universities in the USA — Yale, Princeton, the Cooper Union, New York University (February).





- An event about Ukrainian culture amidst the war at the Munich Security Conference. Participants: **Tetyana Teren and Kateryna Kalytko** (February)
- Participation of **Kateryna Kalytko** in the Writers for Peace Committee in Bled (April).
- **Volodymyr Yermolenko** became guest lecturer at the **University of Vincennes in Saint-Denis**, Paris 8 (April).
- Ukrainian authors, journalists and artists visited Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of a partnership project with the WARM Foundation **Reporting from the Future** (April).
- Participation of **Tetyana Teren** in the World Expression Forum in Lillehammer (May).
- Participation of **Anna Romandash** in the events of Irish PEN in the city of Armagh and the University of Exeter (London) within the Stories of Resilience project (June-July).
- Participation of **Iryna Starovoyt, Olha Mukha and Tetyana Teren** in the International PEN Congress in Oxford (September).
- PEN Ukraine became partner of the Ukrainian program at the Frankfurt BookFair (October)



- **Irena Karpa and Tetyana Teren** participated in the Liber festival in Barcelona upon the invitation of the Literary Platform Frontera (October).
- A series of **Volodymyr Yermolenko's** lectures in German Universities – Köln, Heidelberg, Tübingen, Builefeld (October).
- PEN Ukraine and PEN Finland became partners of the poetry event **Preserving Memories for Our Future** within the Helsinki Book Fair. Participant: **Yaryna Chornohuz** (October).
- Participation of **Anna Vovchenko** in the conference of the Central European Association of the Translators of Literature (CEATL) in Strasbourg (October).
- Keynote speeches of **Volodymyr Yermolenko** within the Immer Wieder Aufbruch Festival in Köln (October).
- INDEX and PEN Ukraine launched the **Victoria Amelina** Fellowship for writers (November)

- PEN Ukraine became partner of the Second International Conference Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South which gathered experts and opinion leaders from different countries of Africa, Asia, and South America in Kyiv (November).
- A series of events **We Stand Together: National Consolidation in the Case of Ukraine in** Copenhagen jointly with the Center for Subjectivity Research and Ukrainian House in Denmark. Coordinator – **Andrii Vakhtel** (November).
- Participation of **Orysia Hrudka** in the Constituent Assembly of the PEN Young Writers Committee (November).

VIII REGIONAL MEETING OF PEN CENTERS

On May 15-18, the VIII Regional Meeting of PEN Centers took place in Kyiv. The pool of participants included **Carles Torner** (PEN Catalan), **Khatuna Tskhadadze** (PEN Georgia), **Carole Mesrobian** (PEN France), and **Froukje Santing** (PEN Netherlands).

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 to freedom of speech and human rights in the region. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, the Meeting has been aimed at expressing the international PEN community's solidarity with Ukraine.

During the Regional Meeting, the representatives of PEN Centers joined two public events at PEN Ukraine Space. They namely attended a conversation with British historian **Timothy Garton Ash** and took part in the discussion **Europe: time to rewrite / time to re-read**, moderated by **Ostap Slyvynsky**.

During their visit to Ukraine, the participants met representatives of human rights and cultural organizations and visited areas of the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions where they saw firsthand the results of the Russian army's aggression during occupation in 2022.





"We, representatives of PEN Georgia, PEN France, PEN Netherlands, and Catalan PEN, gathered in Kyiv in the second part of May 2024. We travelled to the capital of Ukraine despite Russia's continued shelling of the Ukrainian lands, its insatiable wish to destroy Ukrainian cities and erase the Ukrainian culture and identity. By gathering in Kyiv, we show that the spirit of solidarity among different PEN centres remains strong and courageous and that the act of physical presence in places in which life reveals its immense fragility, but also immense value, has crucial importance,"

says the resolution accepted by the participants of the meeting after visiting Ukraine



Supported by the National Endowment For Democracy.

PLANNED FOR 2025

- Continuation of PEN Ukraine's focus topic Our Being in the World.
- V season of the Lacework project.
- Continuation of PEN Ukraine and Chytomo's joint project Words and Bullets.
- Launch of the renewed memorial Ukrainian Artists Killed by Russia in partnership with The Commemorative Platform Memorial, Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, Centre for Human Rights ZMINA, Raphael Lemkin Society, INDEX, Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Laboratory HeMo.
- Continuation of the Unbreakable Libraries program and partnership with Book Aid International.
- New literary volunteering trips of PEN Ukraine to Ukrainian towns and cities.
- Video project Synchrons of the War within the George Gongadze Prize (February).
- III Propysy workshop festival for emerging authors (August).
- Continuation of the fellowship program for Ukrainian authors in partnership with the Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translators Association (April).
- PEN Ukraine special program at Book Arsenal Festival (May).
- IX Regional Meeting of PEN Centers in Ukraine (June).
- Continuation of the project for cadets and students of military institutes Outpost for the Future: Think, Impact, Prevail.
- A program of mental health care for Ukrainian artists (in cooperation with the Feniks organization).
- Publication of the feature series Free Voices of Crimea about Ukrainian authors who became hostages of the Kremlin (in cooperation with Vivat, The Ukrainians Media, ZMINA. Compliers – Olesya Yaremchuk, Inna Bereznitska).

- Publication of the book in memoriam of Ihor Kozlovsky *A Free Man in Captivity* (in cooperation with the Old Lion Publishing House. Curator – Anna Gruver).
- Publication of the English version of the book *Dialogues on War* (in cooperation with Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University).

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY



МІЖНАРОДНИЙ
ФОНД
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ



PRAGUE
**CIVIL
SOCIETY**
CENTRE

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



Thames
&Hudson



MEDIA PARTNERS



UKRAINE
WORLD

The Ukrainians



LB.ua

ЕСПРЕСО

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВДА

сенс*р

ЧИТОМО

КІЇВ24.
news

PROJECTOR
publishing



In 2024, we cooperated with the foreign media such as **The Telegraph** (podcast **Ukraine: The Latest**, UK), **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung** (Germany), **Voice of America** (USA), **Tie2.lt** (Lithuania), **The Continent** (South Africa), **Guardian** (UK), **Book Brunch** (UK), **Linkiesta** (Italy) etc.

PROJECT AND AWARD PARTNERS

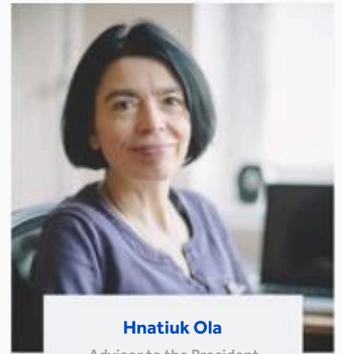
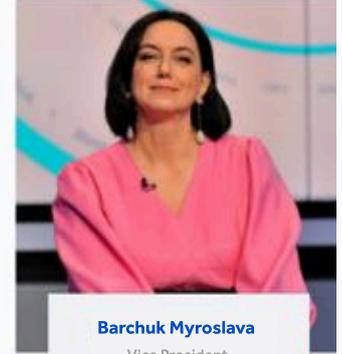
- Amarant Apart Hotel
- Association of KMBS Alumni
- Ukrainian Railways
- Barvinkove Central District Library
- Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi City Community
- Chance for Life Charity Foundation
- Khvyliia 91 Charity Foundation
- Book Aid International
- Book Shelter
- British Council
- Velyka Oleksandrivka village community
- Vivat Publishing House
- Dukh-I-Litera Publishing House
- The Old Lion Publishing House
- Vysokopillia village community
- Voznesensk Central Library System
- Dobrochynets volunteering community (Kharkiv)
- Global Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy
- Archive of the War NGO
- Protecting Protasiv Yar NGO
- Kramchary NGO
- Hadyach Lesia Ukrainka Public Library
- Horodnia Central Library System
- Nova Post Humanitarian
- Department of Implementation of the Humanitarian Policy of Kherson Regional State Administration
- Antiquarian magazine
- Ukrainian Theater magazine
- Eastern Circles
- English PEN
- Yelanets Central Library
- YermilovCenter
- Hk-Klubben and Cappelen Damm
- Zaporizhzhia Regional Scientific Library
- Ivankove Public Library
- INDEX

- Institute of Mass Information
- Kalynivka village community
- Kapytolivka Village Library
- The Yuri Shevelyov Apartment Residency (Kharkiv)
- Kyiv Mohyla Business School
- Book Arsenal
- The committee for medical aid in Transcarpathia
- Kremenchuk public city library
- Kryve Ozero central library
- Crimean House
- Kult: Podcast
- Cultural public center Shelter Plus
- Lviv Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes
- La Gaîté Lyrique
- Lviv Book Forum
- Lviv Media Forum
- Linkiesta
- Lozova city community
- International Center of the National Guard of Ukraine
- MistoHub
- Mykolaiv regional universal scientific library
- Mystetskyi Arsenal
- Mystetskyi Murashnyk
- Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre
- MYOP
- National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide
- National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity
- National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy
- Nikopol central library system
- Novhorod Siverskyi city library
- Novovorontsovka village community
- Novi Sanzhary public library
- Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association
- New York Literary Festival
- Online media The Ukrainians
- Online media Reporters
- Online media Chytomo
- Greenhouse VDNH
- Okhtyrka public library
- PEN America
- PEN Català
- PEN France

- PEN Georgia
- PEN Ireland
- PEN Netherlands
- PEN Sweden
- PEN International
- Pineapple Lane
- Commemorative Platform Memorial
- Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of South Africa
- Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of India
- PR Army
- Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
- Birds Project
- Projector Publishing
- Public library of Bereznehuvate village council
- Public library of Bobrovytsia city council
- Public library of Bohodukhiv city council
- Yevhen Chykalenko public library
- Public library of Kobelyaky city council
- Public library of Konotop city council
- Public library of Tatarbunary city council
- Radio Culture
- Razom for Ukraine
- Residency ART Kuzemyn
- Reshetylivka city library
- Homeplace. Hadyach community newspaper
- Romny central city library
- Rubryka
- Savyne village community
- St. Demetrios Church in Kharkiv
- Smart Prostir
- StAnza
- 124th brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces
- Snihurivka town community
- Sosnytsia public library
- Old Saltiv Public Library
- Sumy Regional Universal Scientific Library
- Suspilne
- The Ukrainians Media
- Theater of the Veterans
- Playwrights Theater
- Espresso TV Channel
- Warm City

- Ternuvate village community
- Eastman Filams Ltd.
- Raphael Lemkin Society
- translit e.V.
- Territorial Defense Forces Media
- Trostianets Public Library
- Truth Hounds
- Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
- Ukrainian House in Denmark
- Ukrainian Institute
- Ukrainian Institute of National Memory
- Ukrainian Institute in London
- Ukrainian Book Institute
- Ukrainian Crisis Media Center
- Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University
- Ukrayinska Pravda
- Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Laboratory HeMo
- Ukrainian Puzzles
- Ukrainer
- UkraineWorld
- UKRDRAMAHUB
- Department of Culture, Ethnicities and Religions of Mykolaiv Regional State Administration
- Department of Culture and Tourism of Chernihiv City Council
- Tree of the Kobzar genus Festival
- StAnza Festival (Scotland)
- Maksym Kryvtsov Foundation
- Fundacja Open Culture
- Kharkiv Literary Museum
- Kharkiv National Vasyl Karazin University
- Slovo Residency (Kharkiv)
- Kherson Regional Museum of Local History
- Khvyliia 91 Charitable Foundation
- Central Library System of Kharkiv Novobavarskyi district
- Center for Civil Liberties
- Center of Communication and Content Security
- The New Ukrainian Theater art center
- Center for providing cultural services of Blyzniuky village council
- Centre for Human Rights ZMINA
- Development center of Savyne community
- Center of Jewish studies
- Horishni Plavni Central City Library
- Iziium Central City Library
- Chernihiv Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi City Library
- Chernihiv Oleksandr Dovzhenko City Children's Library
- Chernihiv Regional Youth Library
- Shostka Central City Library
- Ukrainian Drama Showcase

EXECUTIVE BOARD



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



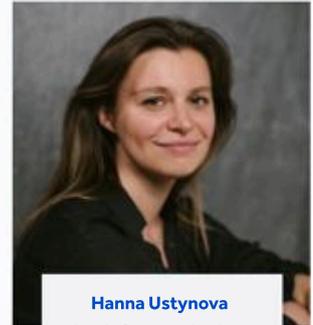
Tetyana Teren
Executive Director



Maksym Sytnikov
Deputy Executive Director



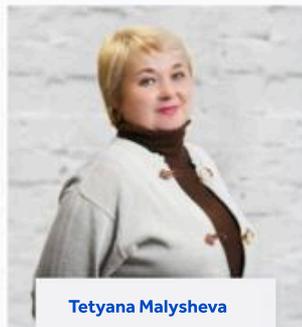
Alisa Bondarenko
Cultural project manager



Hanna Ustynova
Lead of communications



Zakhar Davydenko
Social media manager



Tetyana Malysheva
Accountant



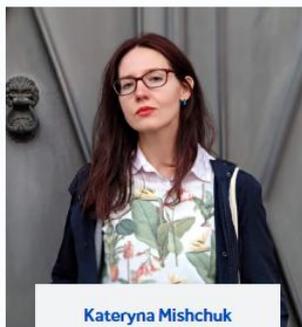
Afanasieva Sofia
Graphic designer



Vovchenko Anna
Translator, project manager,
Drahoman Prize coordinator



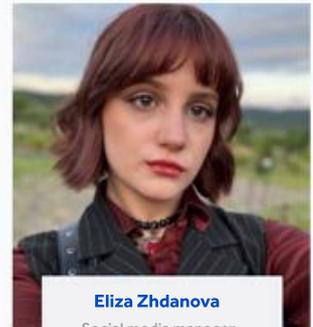
Delyurman Diana
Communication manager



Kateryna Mishchuk
Fundraising consultant



Anastasiia Yevstratenko
Cultural project manager



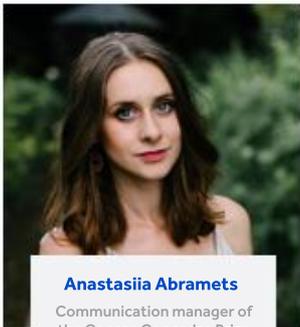
Eliza Zhdanova
Social media manager



Vlad Zinkevych
Program director of the
George Gongadze Prize



Mykhailo Taran
Operation director of the
George Gongadze Prize



Anastasiia Abramets
Communication manager of
the George Gongadze Prize



Olena Chemerys
SMM manager of the
George Gongadze Prize

CONTACTS

pen.org.ua

ukraine.pen@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/penclubua
www.instagram.com/pen_ukraine
twitter.com/penukraine