



FIRST PARLIAMMENTARY SUMMIT

INTERNATIONAL CRIMEA PLATFORM



Mission
Of The President Of Ukraine
In The Autonomous Republic Of Crimea



CRIMEA PLATFORM
EXPERT NETWORK



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP



International
Partnership
for Human Rights




DISCUSSION PROGRAM

within the First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform

Organized by the Office of the Crimea Platform
and the Crimea Platform Expert Network

🕒 24 October 2022

📍 National and University Library in Zagreb
(ul. Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4)



The day before the plenary session of the First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform, the Office of the Crimea Platform and the Crimea Platform Expert Network will organise an additional one-day offline programme of meaningful discussions aimed at highlighting various important topics concerning the occupied Crimean Peninsula. The topics include the prospects for holding Russia and Russian officials accountable for international crimes committed in Crimea; issues related to the future reintegration of Crimea following the deoccupation of the peninsula by Ukraine; the Croatian experience of reintegration of territories and whether it can inform Ukraine's plans for the future. A conversation covering these complex topics will bring together Ukrainian officials and experts, as well as Croatian civil society and former governmental representatives with relevant experience.

Panel discussions have been organised through the joint efforts of the Office of the Crimea Platform, established by a decree of the President of Ukraine on the basis of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea; experts and non-governmental organisations belonging to the Crimea Platform Expert Network — primarily ZMINA Human Rights Centre and Crimean Human Rights Group, as well as Croatian non-governmental human rights organisations.

The working languages of the event are English and Ukrainian, with simultaneous translation from English to Croatian.

The event will be broadcast live on the web site (crimea-platform.org/en) and social media (facebook.com/crimeaplatfrom)

08.30

Welcome coffee and registration

09.00

**Welcoming video messages from
the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
of Ukraine Mr. Ruslan Stefanchuk and
the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament
Mr. Gordan Jandroković**

Panel 1

09.05 – 10.10

Crimea and the Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine: New human rights challenges

Since 24 February 2022, occupied Crimea has been used as a springboard for Russia's full-scale invasion of the Ukrainian mainland. For the peninsula, this means even greater isolation and a new wave of repression, particularly forced mobilisation, which has been ongoing on the occupied peninsula since 21 September 2022, with Crimean Tatars at particular risk. The panel will also discuss the Russian Federation's genocidal practices in Crimea, the implementation of a 'Crimean scenario' in other occupied territories of Ukraine, and Russia's use of education as a tool for the destruction of Ukrainian identity and the militarisation of youth in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

Speakers:

Tetiana Pechonchyk, Head of the Board of ZMINA Human Rights Centre, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Valentyna Potapova, Head of the Almenda Centre for Civic Education, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Kateryna Rashevskaya, lawyer for the Regional Centre for Human Rights, member of Crimea Platform Expert Network

Olha Skrypnyk, Head of the Crimean Human Rights Group, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Moderator:

Dave Elseroad, Head of the advocacy department of the Human Rights House Foundation

Closing remarks:

Cvijeta Senta, Project Manager, Centre for Peace Studies (Human Rights House Zagreb)

10.10 – 10.30

Presentation of photo exhibition "Stories from the occupied Crimea"

The photo exhibition of Ukrainian reporters Alina Smutko, Taras Ibragimov, Aliona Savchuk, who covered human rights violations in occupied Crimea and documented lives of political prisoners' families in 2014-2019. For their journalistic activities, the authors of the photographs were banned from entering the occupied Crimea and the Russian Federation from 10 to 35 years.

Introduction:

Tetiana Pechonchyk, Head of the Board of the ZMINA Human Rights Centre, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Alina Smutko, Ukrainian documentary photographer, photojournalist, and visual storyteller

Panel 2

10.30 – 11.40

Crimea and the “great war”: How to ensure the accountability of the Russian Federation for international crimes

In line with common colonial practice, Crimea has been used as a springboard for Russia’s invasion, as a base for the occupation of Kherson Oblast, as a ‘grey zone’ for the illegal transfer of Ukrainian citizens, and as a hub for the transportation of Ukrainian grain stolen from Kherson Oblast. In addition, dozens of Crimean residents are being persecuted by the occupying authorities for various manifestations of solidarity with mainland Ukraine. Impunity for the crimes committed during the occupation and the lack of a suitable international response over eight years has led to a fresh round of Russian aggression and the multiplication of crimes, in particular in Mariupol, Severodonetsk, Bucha, Irpin, Kherson, and Kharkiv. The Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 proved that bringing the country and its top officials to justice for international crimes is a necessary condition for protecting Europe and the world from the rule of violence. In addition to informing, the panel is aimed at consolidating international efforts to create effective mechanisms of accountability, including a Special Tribunal on Russian Aggression against Ukraine. Experts emphasise the special role of parliaments in this process. One suggestion for the summit would be to support the establishment of a Special Tribunal at the level of the national parliaments of the Crimea Platform’s participating states.

Speakers:

Dr Kateryna Busol, Ukrainian lawyer and a Senior Lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine

Anton Korynevych, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (*online*)

Dmytro Koval, lecturer at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Legal Director of NGO Truth Hounds, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Vesna Škare-Ožbolt, Commissioner of the President of the Republic of Croatia for the Peaceful Reintegration of the Danube Region (1995–1997), Minister of Justice of Croatia (2003–2006)

Ihor Zhovkva, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine

Moderator:

Oksana Pokalchuk, human rights lawyer

Coffee-break

12.00 – 12.20

Invited speaker:

Ivan Zvonimir Čičak, President of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights

Introduction:

Vasyl Kyrylych, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Croatia (TBC)

Panel 3

12.20 – 14.00

The reintegration of occupied territories and guarantees of non-repetition

The reintegration of Crimea following its deoccupation touches upon a wide range of issues and questions that require urgent answers, among them: constructing a regional security architecture that preclude the possibility of renewed aggression; overcoming the consequences of the militarisation of the population; the Russian Federation's ongoing policy of destroying Ukrainian identity; the issue of citizenship and changes in demographic composition; ownership issues, particularly related to real estate and land; the complex effects of the occupation on the Crimean Tatar people; destruction caused to the environment and cultural heritage; the issue of responsibility for collaboration; and revising Russia's imperialist humanitarian policy. During the discussion, representatives of the Ukrainian state and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People will present their vision of the processes described. Meanwhile, the participation of a former Croatian official will integrate an external perspective and take into account Croatia's own experience of overcoming the consequences of war and the post-war reconstruction of the state.

Speakers:

Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People

Emine Dzhaparova, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Alina Frolova, Deputy Chairman of the Centre for Defence Strategies, member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network

Peter Woodard Galbraith, American diplomat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USA to Croatia (1993–1998), co-mediator of the Erdut Agreement that ended the Croatian War of Independence

Mate Granić, Croatian diplomat and politician, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia (1991–1992, 1992–1993, 1993–1995), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia (1993–2000)

Yevheniya Kravchuk, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Member of the Crimea Platform Inter-factional Association

Tamila Tasheva, Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Head of the Office of the Crimea Platform

Moderator:

Nataliya Gumenyuk, Ukrainian journalist, author of a book of reports from Crimea titled 'The Lost Island'

Mini-lunch

Special event

Screening of a documentary dedicated to the political prisoner Nariman Dzhelyal and a public talk on combating of Russian propaganda narratives on Crimea

14.30 – 14.45

Welcome speeches:

Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Anna Tsyhyma, film director

Kateryna Yesypenko, wife of political prisoner Vladyslav Yesypenko, journalist of the Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty's Krym.Realii project

14.45 – 15.30

Screening of the film “The Voice Of Crimea. Nariman Dzhelyal”

(running time of 45 minutes, English subtitles)

About the film: The documentary is dedicated to the story of Nariman Dzhelyal, a Crimean Tatar public figure and politician and deputy chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, who was detained at the beginning of Autumn 2021 after his open participation in the inaugural Summit of the Crimea Platform in Kyiv and the opening ceremony of the Office of the Crimea Platform. The trial of Nariman and the Akhtemov brothers is currently ongoing. His wife and three children await him at home. The documentary, based on interviews with relatives, friends, associates, and defenders of Nariman, describes his story and, through this lens, speaks of political persecutions in occupied Crimea. Currently, victims of such oppression are mostly representatives of the Crimean Tatar people.

15.35 – 16.45

“Crimea has always been... What? How to overcome myths about the peninsula?”

The discussion is aimed at raising the complex topic of myths about Crimea which remain common in Western societies and influence not only discussions, but also the policymaking process with regards to Crimea and Ukraine as a whole, as well as attitudes towards Russia's past and ongoing aggression against Ukraine and visions of how war can and should end. How are we to deal with deep-rooted myths about Crimea, especially if they are based on decades of first imperial and then Soviet disinformation and propaganda?

Speakers:

Alim Aliev, Deputy Director of the Ukrainian Institute, friend of Nariman Dzhelyal

Tomica Bajsić, President of Croatian PEN Center

Dr Rory Finnin, Associate Professor of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Cambridge

Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian World Congress

Mariia Mezentseva, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Member of the Crimea Platform Inter-factional Association, Chairperson of national delegation at the PACE

Moderator:

Maria Tomak, Head of the Crimea Platform Department of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Closing remarks:

Ambassador William B. Taylor, Institute of Peace (U.S.), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to Ukraine (2006-2009), Chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv (2019-2020), online

Speakers and Moderators



Alim Aliev

A Deputy Director of the Ukrainian Institute, journalist, human rights defender, researcher, and manager of educational and cultural projects. He worked as a program director of the Crimean House state enterprise, and a member of the supervisory boards of the NGO “UA Center” and the NGO “Educational Center for Human Rights” in Lviv. Public and professional activities are focused on the topics of occupied Crimea, humanitarian policy, the current state of the Crimean Tatar people, freedom of speech, and communication strategies.

Photo and information: Ukrainian Institute website



Tomica Bajsić

The President of the Croatian P.E.N Centre. A poet, writer, graphic artist and translator. Awarded with important national prizes for poetry which is translated to many languages. Published poetry, travel prose and illustrated books. Exhibited photographs of Amazonia and Brazil in various galleries and museums. He is a veteran of the Croatian War for Independence.

Photo: Tomica Bajsić's Facebook page



Dr. Kateryna Busol

A Ukrainian lawyer and a Senior Lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine. Dr. Busol has worked on different accountability and transitional justice issues related to the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict with UN Women, Global Survivors Fund, Global Rights Compliance, and Ukrainian NGOs such as the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Media Initiative for Human Rights and Truth Hounds. She was also a fellow at Chatham House and a Visiting Professional at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.



Refat Chubarov

The Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, indigenous people of Crimean peninsula. A Ukrainian politician and public figure, leader of the Crimean Tatar national movement in Ukraine and worldwide. Since 2013 Mr. Chubarov has been the Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People. Mr. Chubarov has been persecuted by the occupying regime in Crimea since 2014, including criminal charges, therefore, he had to leave the peninsula after the beginning of the occupation. Currently, he lives and works in Kyiv and actively advocates for the deoccupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Photo: Refat Chubarov's Facebook page



Ivan Zvonimir Čičak

The President of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Croatian politician. In San-Remo in 1992, he participated in the meeting of lobbyists and non-governmental organizations from the former Yugoslavia and the world who had advocated the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, which later was established by the United Nations in May 1993, in response to mass atrocities then taking place in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2015 the President of the Republic of Croatia awarded Ivan Zvonimir Čičak with the Order of Stipan Radić for merits and suffering in the struggle for national and social rights and development of the Croatian people.

Photo: Damjan Tadic / CROPI



Emine Dzhaparova

The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine, a Crimean Tatar-Ukrainian politician, and former journalist. Chair of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO. Emine Dzhaparova is responsible for the coordination of foreign policy planning, public diplomacy, work of Ukraine within international organizations, activities of the Ukrainian Institute — a public institution of Ukraine that represents Ukrainian culture in the world. Ms Dzhaparova also coordinates the work of the MFA of Ukraine within the the International Crimea Platform.

Photo: Emine Dzhaparova's Facebook page



Dave Elseroad

The Head of Advocacy at the Human Rights House Foundation (HRRF), providing leadership to the organization's advocacy and communication work. Mr. Elseroad joined HRRF in September 2019 with a background in policy advocacy and international development. He led a global public health advocacy program for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He has a long experience working in Eurasia, having served as a US Peace Corps volunteer in western Ukraine and worked for CRDF Global supporting weapons non-proliferation programs across the countries of the former Soviet Union. Together with other human rights defenders from different countries, joined the call to the UN General Assembly to exclude Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

Photo: Dave Elseroad's Twitter page



Dr. Rory Finnin

An Associate Professor of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Cambridge. Dr. Rory Finnin launched Cambridge Ukrainian Studies in 2008. He is the former Head of the Department of Slavonic Studies (2014-2018) and former Chair of the Cambridge Committee for Russian and East European Studies (CamCREES) (2011-2018). Also, Rory Finnin is the author of the book "Blood of Others: Stalin's Crimean Atrocity and the Poetics of Solidarity".

Photo: Ukrainian Institute London website



Alina Frolova

The Deputy Chairman of the Centre for Defence Strategies. Co-founder of the Expert Network of the Crimea Platform and a head of the working group on security issues within the Network. Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019–2020), Adviser to the Ministry of Defence (2015–2016), Adviser to the Ministry of Information Policy (2016–2018), founder of the «Invictus Games Team Ukraine Project», Stratcom.UA and Ukrainian Crisis Media Center. Ms Frolova is among the co-authors of the Strategy of Deoccupation and Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine in March 2021.

Photo and information: the Center for Defense Strategies website



Peter Woodard Galbraith

An American author, academic, commentator, politician, policy advisor, and former diplomat. He has held senior positions in the United States government and with the United Nations, including U.S. Ambassador to Croatia (1993-1998), Director for Political, Constitutional, and Electoral Affairs at the U.N. Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations in Afghanistan. During his tenure as the first U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, he was a co-mediator of the 1995 Erdut Agreement that ended the Croatian War of Independence. Galbraith was a professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College. Now he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

Photo: Peter Galbraith's Facebook page



Mate Granić

A Croatian diplomat and politician. Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia (1991-1992, 1992-1993, 1993-1995), Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia (1993 -2000); acting Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia. As Foreign Minister, in 1995 Granić helped negotiate the Dayton Agreement, a peace treaty between Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia.

Photo: Boris Scitar



Paul Grod

The President of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC). He served as its Vice President for 10 years before his election in November 2018. During that time Paul Grod was responsible for many key initiatives and chaired a number of committees and projects including several international election observation missions to Ukraine and UWC's Council in Support of Ukraine, among others. Professionally, Paul Grod is a lawyer and business leader. He is the President & CEO of Rodan Energy Solutions, a leading North American energy management company. Paul Grod is past-President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Member of the Law Society of Ontario.



Nataliya Gumenyuk

A Ukrainian journalist, author of a book of reports from Crimea titled 'The Lost Island'. She specializes in foreign affairs and conflict reporting. She is the founder of the Public Interest Journalism Lab and the co-founder and chair of the public television NGO Hromadske. PIJL is also currently running the Reckoning Project - documenting war crimes in Ukraine. Among others, Ms Gumenyuk produced the documentary about Nariman Dzhelyal, the First deputy of the Head of the Mejlis of Crimean Tatar people, who was sentenced for participation in the inaugural Summit of Crimea Platform.

Photo: Anastasia Vlasova/Hromadske



Olena Kondratiuk

The Deputy Chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Ms Kondratiuk has been an active promoter of the idea of activating the parliamentary track of the Crimea Platform. Within the inter-parliamentary level, she contributes to the consolidation of the international efforts aimed at the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, strengthening of sanctions against Russia and adaptation of national legislation to European legislation. Ms Kondratiuk is an adherent of European integration processes and accession to processes and accession to NATO. Ms Kondratiuk has been researching political parties and civil movements in Ukraine. PhD in History. She successfully worked within mass communications and public relations, electoral technologies. Founder of the «Equal Opportunities» Caucus in Verkhovna Rada, which was created to intensify public dialogue on gender equality issues in various spheres of social and political life.

Photo: The official website of the Ukrainian Women's Congress



Anton Korynevych

An Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, lawyer specializing in public international law, international humanitarian, and international criminal law. Anton Korynevych is the Agent of Ukraine before the International Court of Justice in the Allegations of Genocide case (since 26 February 2022). Mr Korynevych served as the Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (2019 – 2022). He holds the position of Associate Professor of the International Law Department of the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (from 1 July 2016 onwards). Currently, Mr Korynevych works upon the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Photo: The Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea



Dmytro Koval

An associate professor at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. In 2019-2020 Dmytro was a visiting researcher at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies of Stanford University as a Fulbright scholar. Dmytro served as a member of the Ministry of Justice Expert Committee on International Humanitarian Law Implementation in the years 2015-2017. Since 2021 Dmytro represents Ukraine in the UNESCO Committee on the implementation of Protocol II on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. He also works as a consultant for UNESCO on cultural property protection in the event of armed conflict. Throughout his career, Dmytro consulted numerous non-governmental organizations and think tanks on the issues of human rights, international humanitarian and criminal law, TJ and sanctions.

Photo: Dmytro Koval's Facebook page



Yevheniya Kravchuk

A member of the Ukrainian Parliament. Deputy Head of the Servant of the People political party in the Parliament, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy. Co-chair of the Crimea Platform Inter-factional Association, a member of the Ukrainian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, member of the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Being a co-chair of the Inter-factional Association "Crimea Platform" she actively promotes issues of deoccupation and reintegration of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol at the parliamentary level. In particular, Ms Kravchuk is actively engaged in the protection of the cultural heritage of Crimea.

Photo: Yevheniya Kravchuk's Facebook page



Mariia Mezentseva

A Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Member of the Crimea Platform Inter-factional Association, Chairperson of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union. Member of the "Servant of the People" parliamentary faction, volunteer. Co-chair of the parliamentary group of the Verkhovna Rada of inter-parliamentary relations with the Kingdom of Belgium



Tetiana Pechonchyk

The Head of the Board of ZMINA Human Rights Centre (Ukraine), a member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network. The Human Rights Center ZMINA is engaged in informational monitoring, analytical and advocacy activities in the field of human rights. After the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine ZMINA together with other 30 NGOs launched the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition dealing with the documentation of war crimes, supporting victims, and bringing the perpetrators to justice. In 2021 the ZMINA and the Ukrainian PEN launched a joint project #SolidarityWords, which is designed to draw attention to the affairs of Ukrainian Kremlin hostages and to promote international pressure on Russia to release them. In 2022 ZMINA received a Democracy Defender Award from the OSCE and the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition was awarded the Open Society Prize from the Central European University.



Oksana Pokalchuk

A human rights lawyer, experienced in human rights, solicitor. From 2015 to 2022, she has been the Director of Amnesty International Ukraine. Before coming to Amnesty International Ukraine, she worked for the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg). She is a well-known public figure who comments as a human rights specialist to media outlets in Ukraine and worldwide through the lens of human rights.

Photo: Oksana Pokalchuk's Twitter page



Valentyna Potapova

The Head of Almenda Centre for Civic Education, a member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network. The Centre for Civic Education "Almenda" was founded in 2008 in the city of Yalta (the Autonomous Republic of Crimea). After the beginning of the occupation, the activity of "Almenda" is mainly focused on the educational sphere, in particular, providing the legal assistance to IDPs, development of a regulatory and legal framework and monitoring of Ukrainian legislation on the issues of the occupied territory and the protection of human rights on the peninsula.

Photo: Valentyna Potapova's Facebook page



Kateryna Rashevskaya

The legal expert for the Regional Center for Human Rights, a member of the Crimea Platform Expert Network. The NGO "Regional Centre for Human Rights" (RCHR), which specialized in legal issues, emerged due to the occupation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation, in particular private property, freedom of movement, and imposed citizenship. Being a part of RCHR's team, she contributes to the exercising of human rights as well as bringing the perpetrators to accountability by using national and international instruments of protection.



Cvijeta Senta

The Project Manager of the Centre for Peace Studies, a non-governmental and non-profit organization promoting non-violence and social change through education, research, and activism. CPS is a member organization of the Human Rights House Zagreb, a coalition of Croatian human rights and civil society organizations working to build a democratic, pluralistic and inclusive society based on the values of human rights, social justice, and solidarity. Ms. Senta is an expert in anti-discrimination policies, hate crime, hate/discriminatory speech, and youth policies. She has more than 10 years of experience in the implementation of EU-funded projects. She was the organization coordinator of the Centre for Peace Studies 2018-2021.

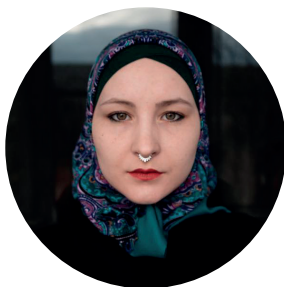
Photo: HINA / Ante Gudelj



Olha Skrypnyk

The Head of the Board of the Crimea Human Rights Group, a human rights activist from Crimea, is the head of the working group “Human rights and international humanitarian law” of the Expert Network of the Crimea Platform. Ms Skrypnyk was delegated by the Crimea Platform Expert Network to address officially participants of the Crimea Platform Inaugural Summit on August 23, 2022, being the only representative of the civic society among the Summit participants. The Crimea Human Rights Group collects, analyzes, and informs the authorities, international organizations, intergovernmental structures, non-governmental organizations, the media, and other target groups on the human rights situation and war crimes in Crimea, collects and submits the evidence to the international courts, as well as publishes and disseminates analytical and informational materials on the human rights situation in Crimea.

Photo: by Valeriya Mezentseva



Alina Smutko

A Ukrainian documentary photographer, photojournalist, and visual storyteller. An important part of Alina's professional activities is visual storytelling and developing personal long-term projects, which are concentrated on ethnic, social, and religious conflicts, life in a post-conflict zone, historical memory, and national identity. Since the beginning of the occupation of Crimea, Alina Smutko has collaborated with the Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty's Krym.Realii project as a journalist and photo-correspondent. On February 18, 2019, Russia banned Ms Smutko from entering the temporarily occupied Crimea until 2028. She considers her professional activity to be the reason for the ban. Her works were published in Ukrainian and world media like Deutsche Welle, BBC, Politico, Der Spiegel, National Geographic, and SZ Magazine.

Photo: Alina Smytko's Facebook page



Vesna Škare-Ožbolt

A Croatian lawyer, politician, former member of the Croatian Parliament and Minister of Justice, and co-founder of the Croatian political party "Democratic Center". Experienced in the process of peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube region. From 1995 to 1997 - the president of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Program for Establishing Trust, Accelerated Return and Normalization of Life in War Affected Areas of Croatia. A member of the State Commission on Establishing the Constitutional and Legal System of the Republic of Croatia in the Vukovar-Srijem and Osijek-Baranja Districts. From December 2003 to February 2006 she held the position of Minister of Justice in the Government of the Republic of Croatia. In 2011, Škare-Ožbolt was with the "Svetozar Prybičević" award by the Serbian National Council for her contribution to the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube region.

Photo: Vesna Škare-Ožbolt's Facebook page



Tamila Tasheva

The Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (since April 2022). From 2019 to 2022 Ms Tasheva used to serve as a Deputy Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Formerly, Ms Tasheva is a human rights defender, co-founder and long-term coordinator of the CrimeaSOS civil initiative working with IDP issues, human rights situation in Crimea, advocacy activities, and the development of the Ukrainian social protection legislation and international humanitarian law regarding the temporarily occupied territories.

Photo: The Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea



Ambassador William B. Taylor

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to Ukraine (2006-2009), Chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv (2019-2020). Currently, Ambassador Taylor works as a vice president of Russia and Europe at the U.S. Institute of Peace. During the Arab Spring, he oversaw U.S. assistance and support to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Syria. Ambassador Taylor also served as the U.S. government's representative to the Mideast Quartet, which facilitated the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. Ambassador Taylor was also the coordinator of U.S. assistance to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Photo and information: U.S. Institute of Peace



Maria Tomak

The Head of the Crimea Platform Department at the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Formerly, Ukrainian human rights activist, journalist, researcher, co-founder of the Media Initiative for Human Rights. Having started by volunteering for the Euromaidan SOS initiative during Euromaidan, Ms Tomak moved on to actively participate in documenting human rights violations in eastern Ukraine and Russia's seizure of Crimea and delivering information on them both in Ukrainian society and the international community. Maria is a co-author of several documentaries. In 2017 she received a national human rights prize for her contribution to the defense of human rights in Ukraine.

Photo: The Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea



Anna Tsygyma

A TV journalist and film director in the project “Public Interest Journalism Lab”. Director of the documentary “Voice from the Crimea. Nariman Dzheylal” dedicated to the political prisoner Nariman Dzheylal, deputy chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, detained in September 2021 for participating in the Inaugural Summit of the Crimea Platform. Anna Tsygyma has more than 10 years of experience as a director, for the previous 8 years she has been working with documentaries.



Kateryna Yesypenko

The wife of political prisoner Vladyslav Yesypenko, journalist of the Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty's Krym.Realii project. On 16 February 2022, he was sentenced to six years in prison by the occupying court in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Since Vladyslav Yesypenko was illegally detained by the FSB in March 2021 in Russian-occupied Crimea, Kateryna has joined human rights activists, public figures, and the Ukrainian authorities to advocate for the release of the Kremlin's political prisoners.



Ihor Zhovkva

A Ukrainian politician and diplomat. Deputy Head of Office of the President of Ukraine, Diplomatic Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Dr. Zhovkva holds the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and is awarded a degree of Candidate of Political Sciences. Associate Professor. In 2008, he became Chief of Staff of Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European Integration. During 2010-2014, he headed the Department of International Cooperation and Investment Marketing at the State Agency for Foreign Investment of Ukraine. In 2014, Dr. Zhovkva moved to the Administration of the President of Ukraine to become Director of the Foreign Policy and European Integration Directorate General. Since September 2019, Dr. Zhovkva serves as Deputy Head of Office of the President of Ukraine.

Photo: Official website of the President of Ukraine

