



**UKRAINIAN WOMEN
IN SWITZERLAND
ASSOCIATION**

2019/2020

ANNUAL REPORT





Key Event

"Learn aplenty of the foreign and don't avoid your own..."

This instruction of Velykyi Kobzar served as the inspiration for the creation of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association in October 2019 by four Ukrainian women - Lesya Nikolayeva, Nataliia Nakonechna, Nataliia Gachoud, and Kateryna Dashevskia. Despite being far from their Motherland, these women are dedicated to preserving and promoting Ukrainian traditions and culture among Ukrainians and their descendants residing in Switzerland.



The idea to unite around this cultural and educational initiative originated among women for a specific reason. Women are not just responsible for maintaining family comfort and fulfilling their roles as mothers and wives by providing love, care, and raising children. They are also

responsible for preserving the genetic memory of generations, teaching their children their native language, and honoring their ancestors.



Our Events in 2019

Nov 20

Decision on The Association's Logo



During an online meeting the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association decided to create a logo with a design that would capture the essence of both Ukrainian and Swiss cultures. Kateryna Dashevskya, a co-founder of the Association, wrote a technical assignment for a

designer to bring the team's vision to life. The result was a logo featuring the silhouette of a female figure adorned with both the Ukrainian and Swiss flags. The combination of the two flags symbolizes the unity and collaboration between the two cultures, while the female figure represents the strength, resilience, and empowerment of Ukrainian women.

The logo has become a powerful representation of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association and their commitment to promoting Ukrainian culture and empowering women.



Dec 12

St Andrew's Evening in Geneva



On December 12, 2019, the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association brought together Ukrainians who felt a sense of instant unity despite being thousands of kilometers away from their homeland. The attendees participated in various activities, including kneading

dough, molding varenyky, and socializing with one another. The venue was filled with a warm and friendly atmosphere throughout the evening. The event successfully fulfilled its agenda, with presentations on the traditions of Kyiv Oblast, Lviv Oblast, Hutsul Region, and Polissia. Attendees also participated in fortune-telling, enjoyed hearty food, engaged in conversations, and sang Ukrainian folk songs.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Our Events in 2020

Jan 31

Ukrainian Rozkoliada - 2020



The celebration of Ukrainian Christmas traditions, "Ukrainian Rozkoliada - 2020", took place on January 31, in Geneva. The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association organized the event, which brought together approximately thirty participants from various locations in the French-speaking region of Switzerland, including Geneva, Lausanne, Fribourg, and the

French city of Annecy. The attendees were treated to a stunning performance of carols and folk songs, both a cappella and with musical accompaniment by Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska, the founder of the UN Choir. Her skillful rendition of polyphonic carols and diverse selection of songs showcased the richness of the Ukrainian Christmas repertoire, leaving guests thoroughly impressed.

[**Read more in Ukrainian >**](#)



Mar 06

Oles Ilchenko's Author Evening in Geneva



On March 6, 2020, Ukrainian poet, novelist, screenwriter, and journalist Oles Ilchenko held an author evening in Geneva organized by the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association. Around 25 attendees listened to Ilchenko's well-known poetry and excerpts from his upcoming novel 'Port Gitana'. Ilchenko organizes literary evenings in Geneva twice a year, in 2020 it was the first time with the Association. The event was widely covered on social media, including posts about the author, his work, and the creative process in emigration. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

June 14

Preparing Bohrach in Transcarpathian Style



Over seventy Ukrainians from French-speaking Switzerland and nearby regions participated in a master class on preparing bohrach in the Transcarpathian style. The master chef for the event was Denys Bordiiian, a frequent guest who actively supports the initiatives of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association, despite his busy schedule with diplomatic activities in Geneva. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Aug 24

29th Anniversary of The Independence of Ukraine



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association celebrated Ukraine's Independence Day in 2020 with a thematic flash mob on their Facebook page and online community. Local Ukrainians shared photos and stories

connecting Ukraine and Switzerland in the week leading up to the 24th of August, 2020

- Day_1: Exploring tangible monuments that connect Ukraine with Switzerland, such as Ukrainian printed publications, diplomatic gifts, art objects, and family heirlooms
- Day_2: Highlighting the shared history of Ukraine and Switzerland, including the presence of Swiss vineyards in the Odesa Oblast of Ukraine
- Day_3: Focusing on the Monument to Gogol in Vevey, Canton of Vaud
- Day_4: Reflecting on the experiences of Ukrainians who emigrated and changed their environment but remain faithful to their homeland.
- Day_5: Showcasing Ukrainian talents in various fields
- Day_6: Learning about the life of Serge Lifar in Lausanne, where he spent his final years.
- Day 7: Celebrating prominent Ukrainians in Switzerland, including Oles Ilchenko (Part 1) and Lubomyr Winnik (Part 2)

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Oct 19

Defenders and Defendresses of Ukraine Day



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association organized a scenic hike through the waterfalls above the Salanfe River. The route took participants through pine forests, across bridges, and over steep steps, providing opportunities to admire waterfalls and bond as a team.

It was a great way to celebrate Defenders and Defendresses of Ukraine Day and to know each other better while enjoying the nature.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Nov 09

The Radio Dictation of National Unity - 2020



Lesya Nikolayeva, the President of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association, joined other Ukrainians in Switzerland to participate in the online National Unity-2020 dictation. The dictation featured a text titled "Challenges of the book era," authored by Ivan Malkovych, a well-known writer

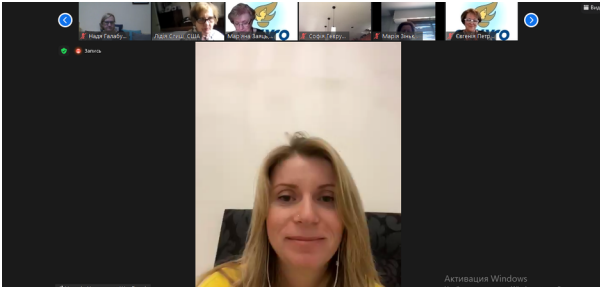
and publisher at the A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha Publishers.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Nov 14

Meeting with WFUWO's member organizations



Nataliia Nakonechna, VP of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association, attended the virtual annual meeting of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), Canada.

During the annual meeting, there were discussed the Federation's activities in the past year, financial reports of 2019, and sources of funding for 2021. The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association was presented as an associate member of the WFUWO. The Association appreciated the chance to connect with Ukrainian women worldwide, establish future cooperation, and be part of a global community, continuing its activities in Switzerland. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Nov 28

Holodomor Memorial Day



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association paid tribute to the victims of the Holodomor, a man-made famine that took place in Ukraine in 1932-1933. This tragedy was caused by the policies of the Soviet government under Joseph

Stalin, which resulted in the starvation of millions of Ukrainians. The Holodomor is recognized as a genocide by Ukraine and several other countries. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Nov 30

Orange The World



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association took over from the Embassy of Ukraine in Switzerland and expressed its solidarity with women worldwide by denouncing gender-based violence. The Association's members joined this initiative on November 30, 2020, by posting photos using the color orange and tagging them on social media with the hashtags #orangetheworld, #16Days, and #GenderEquality.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Dec 13

1st Anniversary of the Association








To mark the first anniversary of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association, its community was encouraged to celebrate virtually due to the pandemic. Ukrainians of Switzerland showcased their talents in singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, reciting poetry, and painting, with the only requirement being to use the Ukrainian language. We were moved and impressed by the creative videos we received, which we believe demonstrate the beauty of Ukrainian culture. This event exemplifies cultural diplomacy and the unity and resilience of Ukrainians in Switzerland. [Watch video 1](#), [video 2](#)

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Contact Information

-  [UAWomenInCH](#) (Association's FB page)
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