



**UKRAINIAN WOMEN
IN SWITZERLAND
ASSOCIATION**

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





Key Event of the Year

The full-scale war in Ukraine, since February 24, 2022, has created a situation of mass arrivals of displaced people from Ukraine in need of temporary protection in Switzerland. The canton of Geneva, and most of all - its capital - has already admitted thousands of forced migrants, and the question of Ukrainian-language education for children from Ukraine has become increasingly topical.

In order to have own space for cultural meetings, learning and integration for the Ukrainian diaspora, on April 10, 2022, the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association founded École ukrainienne à Genève.

Our goal is to provide Ukrainian children living in Geneva and its surroundings (on a permanent basis or those who received temporary protection here) with interesting, high-quality and affordable education in the Ukrainian language.



This is being implemented owing to the work of highly professional volunteers who facilitate the activities and financing of the school, working exclusively on pro bono basis. The school is financed by dedicated financial support from the Swiss Confederation and the canton of Geneva for students with temporary protection status, as well as by voluntary contributions of the students' parents and friends of our school.



Our Events

April 05

"Glad to Meet You!" Retreat



Зустріч українців
у Женеві та Лозанні



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association arranged two simultaneous meetings in Geneva and Lausanne to address the pressing needs and issues faced by Ukrainians seeking temporary protection in Switzerland. These gatherings aimed to provide a platform for open discussion and support.

The association compiled all the relevant information at the time into a comprehensive document and shared it on social media platforms. This document contains valuable resources such as links, addresses to refugee centers, locations for receiving/delivering humanitarian aid in Switzerland, language courses, as well as guidance on renting accommodations and job hunting, among others.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

April 10

École ukrainienne à Genève Opens Its Doors



The association founded École ukrainienne à Genève. This event was widely covered in the mass media (watch video reportages in Ukrainian from EspressoTV, Diaspora TV Switzerland).



April 19

Meeting With The Ambassador Due To The War



Whilst in Geneva, Ambassador Artem Rybchenko had meetings with active representatives of Swiss institutions & NGO's who provide comprehensive support for Ukraine. The parties discussed the outcomes of their collaboration in the field of humanitarian aid and made plans for their next cooperation in Romandy.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

May 12

Charity Screening of Elie Grappe's Film Olga in Geneva



The event was organized together by helpUA.ch and Ukrainian Women in Switzerland associations. The film tells the story of a young Ukrainian gymnast seeking refuge in Switzerland during the 2013-2014 Maidan events, with the underlying theme being the

struggle for European values and freedoms in Ukraine. The event raised funds to purchase portable medical equipment for the Medical Corps. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



June 14

26th Anniversary of The Constitution of Ukraine



The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association traditionally holds outdoor gatherings in June where guests come together to celebrate the Constitution Day and prepare Ukrainian dishes. However, the 2022 year's meeting took a different turn compared to the past two years.

Although it was still lively and provided an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other while enjoying a hearty meal, there were also tears shed. Personal stories were shared about the full-scale war in Ukraine, the escape of several guests from Russian captivity, and the heavy toll of surviving such experiences. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

June 26

Prom 2022



École ukrainienne à Genève held its prom, with representatives from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine in Geneva and the Embassy of Ukraine extending their congratulations to the founders, students and teachers.

The school expressed gratitude to the families for entrusting their children to them and expressed their hopes of seeing everyone return in September. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



June 24-26

Fête multiculturelle de Vevey - 2022



The multicultural festival in Vevey was a success, and the Ukrainian stand placed fifth among 43 countries. The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association participated with the help of partner associations helpUA.ch, SOS Ukraine, and volunteers who prepared Ukrainian dishes, served them, and shared Ukrainian culture with visitors. The cultural mission of the festival was to spread the word about Ukrainian identity, its values. Many Swiss and foreign guests expressed sympathy for Ukraine due to the ongoing war. The funds raised from the festival were used to support Ukraine. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Sept 12

The First Day of School



École ukrainienne à Genève has started the new academic year with 196 children, and 14 teachers. It offers classes every Wednesday afternoon and every Saturday morning, and is the only Ukrainian school accredited by the canton of Geneva. Children from nearby cities and France study here. The school is most proud that they love it and thanks all the families for their trust. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Oct 10

Defenders and Defendresses of Ukraine Day



Whilst on hiking in the Jura Mountains, the Association's long-time friends and new members of the community celebrated the Defenders and Defendresses of Ukraine Day, played games with young members of Plast, and sang Ukrainian folk songs. The goal of the retreat was to get to know each other better, boost the community, encourage support for Ukraine and strengthen bonds between the Ukrainian diaspora and the forced migrants. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Oct 15

Oles Ilchenko's Author Evening in Lausanne



An evening was a memorable one, with the writer Oles Ilchenko presenting his two new novels *Chicken Kyiv* and *Sweet World*. The guests enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and had the opportunity to get to know the author better, asking questions about his most popular plots.

The *Sweet World* takes a reader on an odyssey through exotic and far-off lands, while *Chicken Kyiv* is a gastro-historical excursion to Kyiv during deficit times. The evening ended with a video surprise from Yulia Bevzenko, who took the guests on a short video tour of places dear to the author's heart. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Oct 22

Oles Ilchenko's Author Evening in Geneva



At an author evening in Geneva, Oles Ilchenko presented his new novels, *Sweet World* and *Chicken Kyiv*, and shared ideas for future books. He is renowned as a poet, novelist, screenwriter, and journalist, who is contributing to a variety of genres, including essays, and children's books.

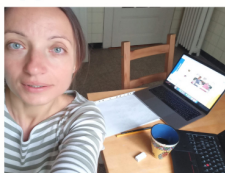
Ilchenko's tireless work and dedication were highlighted, and the guests were thanked for their participation during the discussion.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Nov 14

The Radio Dictation of National Unity - 2022

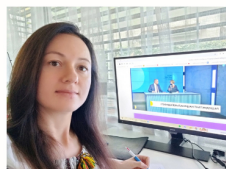
**Радіодиктант
національної
єдності**



Диктант
співзвучний
часу



Асоціація "Українки Швейцарії"



#Радіодиктант2022

A few members of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association participated in an online National Unity-2022 dictation with an emotionally charged text that resonated with the present. The author of its text, Iryna Tsylyk, is known for her work on the Revolution of Dignity and the

Russian-Ukrainian war, including the award-winning film "The Earth is Blue, Like an Orange." The team members were moved to tears by the dictation, which was described as exciting and emotional.

[Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Nov 23

Lection on Holodomor



Dr. Kateryna Bondar, the main representative of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations to the UN in Geneva, delivered a lecture on the Holodomor of 1932-33 as a

genocide of the Ukrainian nation to the secondary school students of École ukrainienne à Genève, which is part of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Dec 13

St Andrew's Evening in Lausanne



A traditional St. Andrew's evening organized by the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association showcased the unique variations in varenyky-making techniques across different regions of Ukraine. Each family and region has their own

secrets and styles of making this popular dish. The evening was also accompanied by Ukrainian song performances with guitar and piano. Despite the challenges and losses faced by Ukraine due to the war, the event served as a reminder to believe in its victory and the strength of unity of the Ukrainian people. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Dec 17

St Nicholas Day in Geneva



École ukrainienne à Genève celebrated Nicholas Day with a festive event. Saint Nicholas and his angels greeted the students of all age groups, who performed creative numbers and sang songs. The event ended with a charity screening of the film "The Adventures of S Mykolay". The children expressed their gratitude to the organizers, and the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association thanked the partners for their support. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)

Dec 18



Excursion in Basel Supported by Swiss Solidarity



The National Museum of Paper, Type and Printing in Basel welcomed the students of École ukrainienne à Genève for an educational tour on the process of bookmaking, including hands-on experiences such as creating handmade paper, writing with ink, and printing their own name on pins. The event was possible with the financial support of [Swiss Solidarity](#). The Ukrainian Women in Switzerland association also expressed its gratitude to all who made the cultural event a success: the teachers, the tour guide and the interpreters from the Basel community of Ukrainians. [Read more in Ukrainian >](#)



Contact Information

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