



The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations

Is pleased to welcome you to

Ukraine Celebrates UN International Mother Language Day

Monday, February 22, 2016

1:15 to 2:30 PM

United Nations Conference Room 2

H. E. Volodymyr Yelchenko, *Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN*, Greetings and Opening Remarks

Ihor Dlaboha, *International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges & Vinculum Foundation*, Moderator

Panelists

Yuri Shevchuk, PhD, *Department of Slavic Languages, Columbia University*, Ukrainian Identity and Language in Ukraine after the EuroMaidan

Sofika Zielyk (Ukrainian) and Marina Celander (English), Dramatic Reading, Selections from the Shistdesiatnyky (The Sixtiers) Poets of Ukraine: Vasyl Symonenko and Lina Kostenko

Ayla Bakkalli, *USA Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*, Persecution of Mother Tongue and the Violation of Cultural Rights in Occupied Crimea

Akhtem Esatov, *President of Crimean Tatar Youth Group at the American Association of Crimean Turks*, Dramatic reading

Olesia Gordynska Ensemble, Musical Selections



We are grateful for the generous support of the Self Reliance Ukrainian (NY) Federal Credit Union.





Ihor Dlaboha

Ihor Dlaboha, a journalist, was editor of Ukrainian American publications such as The Ukrainian Weekly and The National Tribune as well as U.S. business publications. He launched the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network, the world's first satellite radio and television network between North America and Ukraine. He was a staff member of the United Nations Department of Public Information / Non-Governmental Organizations section, where he was the focal point of the annual Conferences for civil society. A graduate of the City College of New York and The New School, he is a former faculty member of The New School and Hofstra University. Currently he is events consultant for The Vinculum Foundation.



Yuri Shevchuk

Yuri Shevchuk (Ph.D. in Germanic Philology from Kyiv State University, 1987, MA in Political Science from the New School for Social Research, 1996), lecturer of Ukrainian language at Columbia University's Department of Slavic Languages since 2004. Dr. Shevchuk has written in English and Ukrainian and lectured on the issues of the Ukrainian language, culture, identity and cinema at Harvard, Stanford University, University of Toronto, University of Cambridge (UK), Greisswald University (Germany), University of Granada (Spain), University of Milan, La Sapienza University (Rome), University Federico II (Naples, Italy), Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland), University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine), National Ivan Franko University (Lviv, Ukraine). His appearances and analyses on Ukrainian TV and radio have provoked a lively public discussion.



Sofika Zielyk

Sofika Zielyk is a native New Yorker who studied art history at New York University. Ms. Zielyk is ethnographer and folk artist, specializing in pysanky (the traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs) and ceramics. As a longstanding member of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble founded in 1965 by Lydia Krushelnytsky (1915-2009), Ms. Zielyk is also widely recognized in the Ukrainian-American community for her dramatic readings. She is a member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., and currently serves as an Additional Representative to UN/ECOSOC for the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO).



Marina Celander

Marina Celander is a working actress in NYC. She has worked with Yara Arts Group for 16 years, and toured with Virlana Tkacz and Mariana Sadovska to Ukraine 2002 to sing with Drevo in the village of Kriatchkivka, Poltava, and also with the grandmas in Polissia. Last year she played the role of the Refugee in Yara's production Hitting Bedrock at the famed LaMama Theatre, based on poetry by Ukrainian poet Serhiy Zhadan. In the summer of 2015 Marina traveled on her own to Ukraine to face paint children in refugee centers and community centers.



Ayla Bakkalli

Ayla Bakkalli is the USA Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since 2007, an adviser to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations on Indigenous Matters and the former president of the American Association of Crimean Turks. Ms. Bakkalli serves as an executive member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, a Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organization since 2009.



Akhtem Esatov

Akhtem Esatov is an indigenous Crimean Tatar born in Crimea, Ukraine and is the head of the Crimean Tatar Youth at the American Association of Crimean Turks (a 501 c3 non-profit organization). He is currently an under-graduate at Queens College, City University of New York, studying biology and law.



Nadia and Olesia Gordynsky

Nadia and Olesia Gordynsky and the Gordynska Ensemble: Olesia and Nadia Gordynsky (vocals), Volodymyr Gordynskyj (violin, piano), Viktor Pokydiuk (guitar), Mykola Gavlishyn (acoustic guitar). Olesia Gordynsky is a singer and teacher from the Philadelphia area. She has performed at Verizon Hall, home of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Church of the Holy Trinity at Rittenhouse Square and various other churches on the East Coast. In 2011, she recorded a bi-lingual EP. She is a member of one of Philadelphia's oldest choirs, the Mendelssohn Club.