

СИЛЬНА ДІЯСПОРА  
СИЛЬНА НАЦІЯ



STRONG DIASPORA  
DIGNITY RIGHTS JUSTICE

VII UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

Toronto 2-7 XII 1998

**UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS  
СВІТОВИЙ КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ  
CONGRÈS MONDIAL UKRAINIEN  
CONGRESO MUNDIAL UCRANIO**



**2118-A BLOOR ST. W., TORONTO, ON M8S 1M8, CANADA  
Tel.: (416) 762-1108 • Fax: (416) 762-8081  
E-MAIL: [congress@htplus.net](mailto:congress@htplus.net) • INTERNET: [htplus.net/congress](http://htplus.net/congress)**

# UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

## MEMBERSHIP AND OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The **Congress** is an international co-ordinating body and spokesman for the large Ukrainian communities in the diaspora, in 20 countries and over 230 organizations. The total population of Ukrainians in the diaspora numbers over 20 million people.

Established in 1967, by delegates of organizations representing all facets of religious, social, political, economic, cultural and educational life, representing Ukrainian communities outside Ukraine.

The **objectives** of the **Congress** are outlined in its Constitution as follows:

- a) To preserve the national identity and heritage of the Ukrainian people outside of Ukraine and to develop and insure the continuance of the spiritual, and cultural traditions from generation to generation.
- b) To coordinate the activities of member organizations in accordance with the resolutions of the various Congresses of the Ukrainian World Congress.
- c) To promote public and political support, among the countries of settlement, for Ukraine's national, spiritual and economic development.
- d) To be vigilant in the protection of human rights of every Ukrainian, as they are accorded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Congress functions through an elected Secretariat, the Executive of which is presently based in Toronto, Canada. The Secretariat consists of representatives of national coordinating bodies, the hierarchies of Ukrainian Churches, international federative structures and individual community organizations in their respective countries. Complementing the work of the Congress Secretariat are various permanent Commissions and Councils, such as the Human and Civil Rights Commission, the Educational Coordinating Council, Social Services Council, Council of Youth Organizations, Council on Churches and others.

## RELATIONSHIP TO UKRAINE

The Ukrainian World Congress continues the role of uniting and coordinating the work of Ukrainian organizations in diaspora. The reality of independent Ukraine introduced a new dimension to the work of UWC. Diaspora organizations and the Councils and Commissions of the UWC have provided ongoing support and assistance to both the Ukrainian government ministries and voluntary organizations in Ukraine dealing with education,

social services, sports, and others such as business, banking, agriculture, medicine, etc. They have shared their knowledge and expertise and provided training skills in organizational development.

UWC Councils and Commissions have also provided financial support, professional expertise, medical aid, teacher training, youth exchanges, volunteer development training in the social services and youth sectors, educational facilities and the aid and promotion of Ukrainian sports.

## COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS

**Human and Civil Rights Commission:** the main purpose of the Commission is to monitor, document and defend the rights of Ukrainians. It cooperates with those international governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, that are concerned with human rights. It informs the media. The Commission is actively involved in the present non-governmental OSCE institutions. In the past, the Commission was actively a participant in all the international Helsinki Accords conferences dealing with Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, and published numerous briefs, articles, brochures and other materials relevant to its activities.

**World Council of Ukrainian Social Services:** the Council coordinates and keeps the Ukrainian community informed about charitable activities, both in the diaspora and in Ukraine, by working closely with international and national Ukrainian organizations involved in social services. When needed, the Council initiates special projects to assist Ukrainians in need. In recent years the Council helped to found Social Services of Ukraine, a voluntary charitable organization, and continues to assist them by coordinating fund raising and sponsorship programs and by providing training programs for their volunteers.

**The World Educational Coordinating Council:** the Council coordinates the activities of Ukrainian organizations and institutions that are concerned with education. The Council stimulates cooperation and mutual assistance among Ukrainian schools, "ridni shkoly," in the diaspora. Since 1991, the Council is involved with educational reform in Ukraine. The Council publishes a periodical *Vidhuknitsja*, (Respond), the objective of which is to disseminate information and to provide a forum for idea exchange regarding education in Ukraine and in the diaspora.

**Council of Learned Societies:** this Council is the umbrella organization of the Ukrainian scholarly and higher educational institutions throughout the diaspora. The Council provides financial support to select scholarly projects, both in the diaspora and in Ukraine, organizes scholarly conferences, publishes books, advises and undertakes special scholarly projects.

**Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations:** the Conference promotes

the views of Ukrainian youth and student organizations in various countries, supports and stimulates contacts and cooperation amongst them, serves as a forum and intermediary for such cooperation and organizes international conferences to this end.

**World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives:** this is the international coordinating body for the Ukrainian cooperative movement in the diaspora and Ukraine. The Council coordinates the activities of its members in stimulating the economic development of Ukrainian communities, particularly in the area of international cooperation and mutual assistance.

**Sports Commission:** the task of the Commission is to promote sport, to aid and facilitate the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, national sports federations, sport institutes and community based sports organizations. The Commission conceptualized, formalized and promoted a community structure that since 1993 has supported Ukrainian athletes on four continents, primarily in locales populated by the Ukrainian diaspora.

## BACKGROUND OF SETTLEMENT

Emigration from Ukraine dates back to the middle of the XIXth century, when thousands of emigrants from Ukrainian lands under Austria-Hungary were coming for economic reasons to the United States, Canada, Brazil and Argentina, where they established their religious and social organizations.

A number of Ukrainians came to North and South America between the First and Second World Wars (1920-1939). After the end of World War II, especially in the years 1946-1955 more than 250,000 Ukrainian displaced persons and refugees settled in the United States, Canada, Australia and the countries of South America - Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Over 100,000 persons found home in West Germany, France, Great Britain and in smaller numbers in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

There has been another large emigration of Ukrainians in the 1980's. These were the refugees from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Block countries, particularly Poland. Most of these persons settled in Canada and the United States. There are no accurate statistics on this immigration as yet.

In all the countries of their resettlement, Ukrainians formed their own flourishing religious and social life as well as developed numerous viable educational, social and economic organizations and associations. The second and third generations of Ukrainian immigrants have produced scientists, university and college professors, doctors, dentists, explorers, teachers, journalists, engineers, priests, musicians, artists,

lawyers, veterinarians, librarians, businessmen, civil servants as well as politicians. While loyal to their new country of adoption or birth, Ukrainians and their progeny have a strong affinity to their heritage and tradition, and are keenly interested in their country of origin and the other Ukrainian communities throughout the world, especially their achievements and their problems.

## UKRAINIAN DIASPORA

Today there are an estimated 22,581,000 Ukrainians living outside of Ukraine. Most countries do not gather data on the ethnic origin of their populations, others gather information on country of birth or origin of immigrants, and the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries purposely undercounted the number of Ukrainians. Thus, the official statistics of the Ukrainian population throughout the world are underestimated.

**United States of America:** the Ukrainian community numbers over 1,500,000. Although the first United States census (1790) and the Civil War records contain Ukrainian names, larger Ukrainian immigration came later and can be divided into four phases: 1877-99, 1900-14, 1920-39, 1947-55, and an, as yet, unknown number after 1980.

**Canada:** Ukrainian Canadians number over 1,000,000 and are settled primarily in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The first settlers came as early as 1874-75, but the large scale immigration began after 1895.

**Western Europe:** Substantial Ukrainian communities exist in the United Kingdom, 35,000; in France over 30,000; in Germany over 20,000; Austria over 4,000; an estimated 45,000 in the former republics of Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia which used to be a vital Ukrainian community, and one of the oldest in the diaspora, dating from the 18th century; and in smaller numbers in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland.

**South America:** The largest Ukrainian communities are in Brazil (350,000), and Argentina (220,000), with smaller groups in Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**Australia:** The Ukrainian immigration in Australia numbers 30,300 and is of the post-World War II refugees.

**Ukrainians in the Former USSR and Eastern Europe:** There are very substantial numbers of Ukrainians living in these areas. According to the most recent census data, there are over 14,408,440 Ukrainians living in the Republics of the former Soviet Union and over 1,162,000 in Eastern Europe.



