

Dear Madam President,

Dear members of the Governing Board and the General Board of the IULN,

Dear Presidents of notary-members of IULN,

Dear colleagues and friends!

I'm from Ukraine. These words are now often repeated by Ukrainians who are proud to be citizens of Ukraine.

We are now also often grateful for our lives. Every morning we say thank you for surviving the night, for the end the air alarm sound, for the opportunity to see relatives, to work, to just live.

And now I want to express my gratitude to the leadership of the International Union of Notaries, personally to President Christina Armelia - for the opportunity to address a wide audience, representatives of the world notary, to represent the Notary of Ukraine, the Notary Chamber of Ukraine as a self-governing organization of notaries.

Thank you, friends, for the words of support and solidarity that have come to the NPU since the first days of the war started by Russia in Ukraine.

I thank IULN for promptly responding to the call of the Notary Chamber of Ukraine and in early March suspending the exercise of the rights of notaries of the Russian Federation and Belarus in IULN. But I want to emphasize that the suspension of rights is not enough - the notaries of these countries should be completely excluded from such a respectable organization as the IULN, so as not to disgrace the honor of the notary.

I hope that such a decision will be made during the next IULN Assembly. Especially since the whole world imposes sanctions on Russia, excludes it from various organizations and does not want to have anything to do with the aggressor.

I thank the President of the Federal Notary Chamber Jens Bormann for the hospitable invitation and organization of the speech from Ukraine.

I would like to thank the governments of your countries for their effective assistance to Ukraine in opposing the aggressor, support for sanctions, and military assistance.

I thank the notaries of the IULN, the notaries of European countries, personally the President of the Council of Notaries of the European Union Gianpaolo Marcos, who together with the EU works on humanitarian and legal assistance to Ukrainian citizens, including notaries.

The situation in Ukraine today remains critical. The war continues.

The whole world sees horrific evidence of the crimes of the Russian army, which does not want to stop. No wonder they are called "rascist" (and this is a new word) -- this is the worst degree of fascism, Nazism, cynicism, this is real evil.

Every day there are new casualties among the civilian population, every day Russia attacks us with missiles, "hail" fire, "tornadoes", bombs from air, sea and ground. In blocked cities civilians die of hunger, cold, wounds, shootings, abuse and rape. Thousands of rascists are destroying homes, hospitals, schools, social and industrial infrastructure, stealing food supplies, exporting grain, burning warehouses and fields, wanting to starve Ukraine, provoking a food crisis in the world.

Bucha. Irpen. Gostomel. Borodyanka. Mariupol. Chernihiv. Kharkiv.

You know these cities as evidence of the genocide committed by Russia in Ukraine.

And many more towns have been virtually wiped off the face of the earth.

Violence, looting, murder, torture. Completely destroyed, burned buildings. Mass killings. The bodies of tortured people are in mass graves, just on the streets. Harassment of people - living and dead, and even animals, for fun.

So, of course, the courageous Ukrainian army holds the defense, and also liberates the territories from the Russian occupiers. The Army of Ukraine is an army of superheroes!

Azovstal - this word has now become a symbol of strength, steadfastness, courage, patriotism. It is a territory of a once prosperous plant, on the shores of the Sea of Azov, in Mariupol, where our Ukrainian soldiers heroically defended themselves and civilians in inhumane conditions and under constant bombardment.

The real little heroes are the children who survived the horrors of the war in Mariupol. This is a real story: after fleeing from Mariupol, two refugee brothers were drinking water from a cup and had to ask if they could drink it all... And when they were asked about their hometown, the elder replied: "There is no city left", and the younger brother kindly replied: "Please come – we still have the sea left!" ...

But not only the sea remained there - a sea of corpses is as well. People killed by the Russians, who lie in the basements of destroyed houses, buried shallow underground in the yards and on playgrounds. Corpse venom, bacteria and infectious agents enter the water supply. Russian invaders have turned the city into a garbage dump, as household waste is not taken out.

Now Mariupol is threatened by a terrible ecological catastrophe. Due to exploding missiles and air bombs, the soil and groundwater in the city are contaminated with chemicals and heavy metals. This threatens mass poisoning and an epidemic of infectious diseases for the people of Mariupol, and the consequences for the environment will be felt for years not only in Ukraine but also abroad.

These facts of human rights violations by the Russian occupier in Ukraine must be taken into account by the UN Commission in its investigation.

We believe in the victory of light over darkness, good over evil.

The notary of Ukraine continues to work during the war, because it is necessary for the people and the state.

Unfortunately, the war suspended the reform of the notary of Ukraine, which has already been successfully implemented.

In February 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the draft Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improving the Regulation of Notarial Activity".

The bill provides for the transition to a single notary organization, expanding the list of powers of notaries (in particular, on the registration of marriages and their dissolution; providing evidence; establishing facts of legal significance; introduction of a single cycle of notarization and registration of alienation of corporate rights); it is planned to introduce an electronic notary system; ensure the availability of notarial acts in each notarial district; transfer a number of powers in the field of notaries from the central body of executive power to the body of professional self-government of notaries.

We have been actively preparing for the adoption of this Law and the implementation of the reform. The notary of Ukraine was actively developing, the notarial community was strengthened, there were many plans and strong prospects.

However, on February 24, Russia's armed attack on Ukraine began.

Ukrainian notaries were forced to adapt to new working conditions, taking into account martial law.

On February 28, 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued a resolution "Some issues of notary in martial law", which subsequently made the necessary changes and additions.

Currently, notarial acts on the territory of Ukraine under martial law are carried out taking into account the following features:

1. Certification of wills and powers of attorney is carried out without the obligatory use of special forms of notarial documents.

2. Certification of signatures on any documents, including the signature on the application for permission to travel abroad for up to three months, is carried out without the use of special forms of notarial documents.

3. During the martial law, the term for acceptance of the inheritance is suspended. The certificate of the right to inherit is issued to the heirs after the expiration of the term for acceptance of the inheritance.

4. Notarial acts shall be refused, unfinished or suspended until the adoption and entry into force of the Law of Ukraine on Settlement of Relations with the Participation of Persons Associated with the Aggressing State:

- a citizen of the Russian Federation (except those residing in Ukraine legally);

- a legal entity established and registered in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

5. It is prohibited to make writs of execution under credit agreements that are not notarized.

6. A special principle of territorial binding in the case of notarization of contracts for the alienation of real estate, mortgages, trust ownership of real estate.

7. Notarization of agreements on alienation, division (separation) of real estate, inheritance agreements and other statutory agreements, powers of attorney and certain notarial documents shall be carried out exclusively by notaries included in the list of notaries approved by the Ministry of Justice. The criteria according to which a notary can be included in such a list are defined.

8. It is prohibited to perform notarial acts on valuable property by notaries whose workplace (office) is located within the administrative-territorial units determined by the Ministry of Justice, where users' access to the unified and state registers is terminated.

As of the beginning of May 2022, out of the total number of 6,600 notaries in Ukraine, only about 2,500 notaries perform notarial acts. Currently, the exact number of notaries in force is difficult to establish due to the constant change in the operational situation regarding hostilities, the mass relocation of the population to safer regions of Ukraine, as well as outside Ukraine.

The amount of damage caused to Ukraine is difficult to estimate, as every day important infrastructure and industrial enterprises, houses, schools, medical facilities throughout the country are destroyed, life support systems are damaged - no water supply, electricity and gas, as a result of which the population suffers humanitarian disasters.

The homes and offices of many notaries have been physically destroyed.

## VIDEO

I note that 80% of Ukrainian notaries are women.

Consequently, many women notaries and their children are forced to become refugees, both in Ukraine and abroad.

Nevertheless, our notaries and the Notary Chamber of Ukraine continue to work.

For example, in Kharkiv, one of the hardest-hit cities, in the most dangerous district of Saltivka, where even volunteers were afraid to go, female notaries traveled for calls in bulletproof vests. Can you imagine the risk? As great as the love of a Ukrainian notary for her profession.

Currently, the so-called "inventory" is being carried out - confirmation of working offices and notaries who have been granted the right to work with state registers, including the real estate register. The NPU has set up a hotline to advise notaries and a register of notaries working during the war.

In order to provide first aid to notaries who have suffered materially and physically as a result of hostilities, the Notary Chamber keeps a register of these persons and records the relevant facts. To date, we have received about a thousand such appeals.

Therefore, notaries of Ukraine need financial assistance.

That's why we created the Charitable Foundation "Rescue of Notaries and Their Families" - to collect voluntary donations from colleagues from around the world, for further targeted financial assistance to affected Ukrainian notaries.

In this context, we are sincerely grateful to the President of the IUCN for the establishment of the Solidarity Fund for Humanitarian Purposes and the reconstruction of the notary of Ukraine.

We also thank the Council of Notaries of the European Union, all the presidents of the notarial chambers, who responded to our request for help and showed great involvement in the fate of Ukrainian notaries.

Military action is causing enormous damage to Ukraine's economy every day, destroying not only large enterprises but also small and medium-sized businesses. And we all know how much the work of a notary depends on the economic development of the country.

The free profession of notary does not provide funding from the state, and the war, which affects more and more regions of Ukraine, does not allow for notarial activities.

As a result, refugee notaries and migrant notaries are effectively left without means of subsistence.

Against this background, the financial support of Ukrainian notaries as members of the world notary of continental law is very important.

Help us keep the profession of notary in Ukraine!

We will be sincerely grateful for the financial assistance and transfer of funds to the account of the Charitable Fund of the NPU "Salvation of Notaries and Their Families".

The funds will be used in certain areas:

- reconstruction, repair of workplaces, housing of notaries;
- restoring the health of the notary and members of their families;
- material and technical assistance in providing a workplace (office equipment, software, furniture, etc.);
- social support for rent for office space and housing, utilities, etc.

The financial capabilities of the Notary Chamber of Ukraine are currently extremely limited, and there are a lot of tasks.

In particular, the NPU owns the recently purchased but not yet completed premises for the future NPU Central Office. The house was scheduled to be commissioned in May 2022, and repairs were planned to begin, while introducing a notary reform. After all, a separate room is needed for the implementation of the new Law - in particular, there must be servers for the implementation of Electronic Notary, and the relevant staff. But due to the war, the NPU continues to rent office space.

Once again, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that out of 6,600 notaries, about 2,500 are working, which means that the receipt of membership fees has more than halved. At the same time, notarial acts are virtually absent. Ukraine's economy is down and it will only get worse.

We believe that our problems are not alien to you.

There is no other people's war.

Now Ukraine is a shield for Europe and the world.

We are fulfilling this mission with dignity, but we need help.

The Notary Chamber of Ukraine appeals to you to help our long-suffering country and people.

Respectful legal, notarial community has a special weight in each country, your opinion is listened to. Please do not stop influencing your governments, from all possible platforms talk about helping Ukraine and imposing effective sanctions against Russia.

During the war, the civilized world has already demonstrated the extraordinary power of unity. I personally believe in the unity of the notary. I see understanding in your eyes and I hope for help.

Details of the NPU Charitable Foundation are available from representatives of the IUCN and the EU Council of Notaries.

Glory to the notary!

Glory to Ukraine!