

Background

The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations ([UCCRO](#)) was established in 1996 as an interdenominational institution, aiming to unite the efforts of various denominations to focus on the spiritual revival of Ukraine, coordination of interconfessional dialogue in Ukraine and abroad, participation in a legislative process on church-state issues, and the implementation of comprehensive charitable actions. Today, it is one of the largest non-governmental institutions in Ukraine, representing over 95% of all religious communities in Ukraine. UCCRO works closely with the Ukrainian government, civil society, and international organizations, including on the issues pertaining to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Following a meeting with the UCCRO in June 2023, Razom has been working with the UCCRO leadership on a high-level visit to the United States for a series of meetings with the US Senate leadership, church counterparts, local communities, and the media, as well as public-facing events. The previous visit of UCCRO to Canada and the United States took place in 2012 with support from the Temerty Foundation.

Objectives

- Discuss the state of religious freedoms in Ukraine and address disinformation surrounding it.
- Exchange information with counterparts in the United States on how religious communities across Ukraine have responded to Russia's invasion and the high toll Russia's aggression has taken on religious life inside Ukraine.
- Demonstrate the unity and diversity of Ukrainian religious communities in the face of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Details

The trip will take place between **October 28 - November 5, 2023**. Below is a tentative timeline and program for the visit:

- October 28 - The UCCRO delegation arrives in Washington, DC.
- October 29-November 2 - Meetings with the Senate Leadership, the Executive Branch, think tanks, media engagements, and a reception in Washington, DC.
- November 2 - Travel to Houston, Texas, and an evening event.
- November 2-5 - Meetings with the church counterparts and government officials in Houston, Texas, and local media engagements.
- November 6 - The UCCRO delegation returns to Ukraine.

Delegates

15 members of UCCRO, including leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, Crimean Tatar, and Orthodox Church religious communities, will join the trip. Below is a detailed list of the delegates:

1. **Yevstratyi (Zoria)**, Metropolitan of Bila Tserkva, spokesman of the Kyiv Metropolis, Deputy Head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine
2. **Oleksa Petriv**, Head of the Department of External Relations in Ukraine of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, archpriest
3. **Vitalii Kryvytskyi**, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, Ordinary of Kyiv-Zhytomyr
4. **Anatoliy Kozachok**, Senior Bishop of the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church
5. **Anatoliy Raychynets**, Deputy Secretary General of Ukrainian Bible Society, pastor
6. **Ivan Rusyn**, Deputy Senior Bishop of the Ukrainian Evangelical Church
7. **Stanislav Nosov**, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine, Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations
8. **Yaakov Dov Bleich**, Chief Rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, Founder and President of the Union of Jewish Religious Organizations of Ukraine
9. **Akhmed Tamim**, Supreme Mufti of Ukraine, Head of the Religious Administration of Ukrainian Muslims
10. **Ayder Rustemov**, Supreme Mufti of Crimea, Head of the Religious Administration of Muslims of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
11. **Oleksandr Zaiets**, Board Chairman of Institute for Religious Freedom
12. **Maksym Krupskyi**, Head of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Freedom of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine, pastor, interpreter
13. **Pavlo Feldblium**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Jewish Religious Organizations
14. **Maksym Vasin**, Executive Director of Institute for Religious Freedom
15. **Alejandro Guevara**, priest, Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, secretary

Contact

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