

Who can be recognized for supporting Ukrainians – and how

Ukraine has many friends around the world: politicians, diplomats, volunteers, journalists, philanthropists, cultural figures, local government officials, and members of civil society who have supported the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom and independence.

Recognizing these individuals is not only an expression of gratitude but also an important tool of international advocacy. It demonstrates that Ukraine values its allies, strengthens partnerships, and encourages continued support at the international, national, and local levels.

Below are the recommended guiding criteria that Ukrainian communities may use when selecting individuals for recognition.

Honorary certificate: Honorary Friend of the Ukrainian People

The Honorary Friend of the Ukrainian People distinction was established by the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) to recognize foreign citizens whose actions have made a meaningful contribution to supporting Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and the defense of freedom, democracy, and international law.

The award recognizes individuals whose support for Ukraine has been tangible, verifiable, and of public significance. It is granted not for a person's title or position, but for concrete actions and a consistent commitment to Ukraine.

Eligibility

The award may be presented only to **citizens of countries other than Ukraine**. Ukrainian citizens are not eligible.

Eligible candidates may come from any professional or social background, including:

- Government officials
- Members of parliament or senators
- Local government officials
- Diplomats
- Military personnel
- Journalists
- Academics
- Cultural figures
- Volunteers
- Philanthropists
- Business leaders
- Civil society leaders
- Representatives of religious communities
- Educators

- Other individuals who have made a significant contribution to supporting Ukraine

Selection criteria

1. Demonstrated support for Ukraine

Candidates must have a documented record of supporting Ukraine. This may include political leadership, humanitarian work, public advocacy, charitable initiatives, information support, professional activities, or other actions that have provided meaningful benefits to Ukraine or the Ukrainian people.

Preference should be given to candidates whose support has been consistent and sustained rather than limited to a single action.

2. Consistent public position

Candidates or the organizations they represent should consistently support Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

They should have publicly expressed support for Ukraine, defended its right to self-defense, and upheld the principles of international law.

3. Condemnation of Russian aggression

Candidates should have publicly condemned the Russian Federation's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine and should not participate in activities that legitimize Russia's aggression, the occupation of Ukrainian territory, or the spread of Russian state propaganda.

4. Meaningful contribution

Support should be demonstrated through concrete, verifiable results.

Examples include:

- Adopting or advancing decisions in support of Ukraine
- Organizing humanitarian or military assistance
- Supporting Ukrainian refugees
- Leading charitable initiatives
- Publicly advocating for Ukraine's interests
- Countering Russian disinformation
- Supporting Ukrainian culture, education, or science
- Building long-term partnerships with Ukrainian communities
- Other documented actions that have had a positive impact on Ukraine

Supporting information

Each nomination should include a brief description of the candidate's contributions.

It is recommended to provide:

- Who the candidate is
- The specific actions they have taken in support of Ukraine
- When those actions took place
- The impact of their efforts
- Whenever possible, links to publications, official documents, speeches, government decisions, media coverage, or other sources that verify the candidate's contribution

General principles

The award is granted regardless of a candidate's political affiliation, profession, religion, or social status.

The determining factor is not words or intentions, but documented actions that have strengthened Ukraine, supported the Ukrainian people, and contributed to the defense of freedom, democracy, and international law.

Each Ukrainian community has the authority to identify its own nominees based on these criteria, taking into account the individual's contribution within that country or local community.