



UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

GLOBAL INSIGHTS FORUM

August 23, 2025
Ukrainian Cultural Center
Chicago, IL

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
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Program



8:00 **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 **Opening Remarks**

9:00 **Panel 1: Global Security and Peace Through Strength**

Michael A. McFaul

Oleksandra Ustinova

Ivo H. Daalder

Moderator: Andrij Dobryansky – Director of Communications, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA)

10:15 **Panel 2: Confronting Disinformation and Exposing the Axis of Evil**

Yevhen Hlibovytskyi

Marcus Kolga

David Kirichenko

Joe P. Lindsley

Moderator: Ostap Yarysh, Media Advisor Razom for Ukraine, frn Pentagon Correspondent at Voice of America

11:30 **Panel 3: Environmental Impact of War**

Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk

Dr. Timothy B. Erickson

Moderator: Dr. Maria Hrycelak – president, UMANA Foundation, co-founder Ukraine Relief Project

Program



12:30 Lunch & Networking

1:30 Panel 4: Achieving Justice – War Crimes, Religious Persecution & Historical Memory

Elina Beketova

Adrian Karatnycky

Oleksandra Matviichuk

Volodymyr Viatrovych

*Moderator: Marta Farion, president of Kyiv–Mohyla Foundation of America,
VP of Ukrainian World Congress*

2:45 Panel 5: Building Global Community

Suzanne Akhras

Sergio Jaramillo Caro

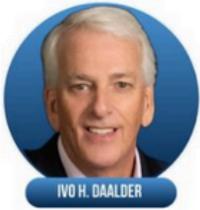
Steven Dishler

Yevhen Hlibovytskyi

*Moderator: Aleksandr Krapivkin, Associate Director of Community
Engagement, Nova Ukraine, Chair of Outreach and Engagement, American
Coalition for Ukraine*

4:00 Closing Remarks

Panelists



Ambassador Ivo H. Daalder (ret.) – Senior Fellow at Harvard’s Belfer Center; former U.S. Ambassador to NATO under President Barack Obama and a member of the U.S. National Security Council under President Bill Clinton. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. His opinions appear in the world’s leading newspapers, and he is a frequent expert on radio and television. Ambassador Daalder is a sought-after keynote speaker, panelist, and moderator on global affairs, and he consults for global corporations and investment funds on the impact of geopolitics on business and finance.



Ambassador Michael A. McFaul- Professor of International Studies, Stanford University. Michael McFaul is a distinguished American academic, diplomat, and analyst. A Rhodes Scholar and Stanford alum, he serves as a Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute and the Hoover Institution, and is a regular NBC News analyst and Washington Post columnist. From 2009 to 2014, McFaul held senior roles in the Obama administration—including Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council—and then served as U.S. Ambassador to Russia. He is the author of *From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia*, a New York Times bestseller acclaimed for its insider perspective on diplomacy in a turbulent era.



Oleksandra Ustinova, one of the minority leaders of the Ukrainian Parliament. Chairwoman of the Temporary Special Commission on Arms Control of Ukraine. Adviser to the Minister of Defence of Ukraine. Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Head of the “Holos” (Voice) Party faction in the Parliament. Deputy - head of the US-Ukraine Caucus. Member of the Law Enforcement Committee. Candidate for the post of mayor of Vinnytsia in 2020 from the “Holos” (Voice) Party. Stanford Alumna, MA in Political Science, member of the board of the Anti-Corruption Action Center. She was one of the initiators and founders of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecution, and the Anti-Corruption Court. One of the drivers of the anti-corruption drug procurement reform in Ukraine. In 2015 first elected Secretary of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau Public Control Council. Ustinova has actively engaged with international media, highlighting Ukraine’s challenges and advocating for military aid. She has been featured in interviews with major outlets like Politico, CBC, DW News, The Atlantic Council, Foreign Policy, Fox News, MSNBC, and The Washington Post. Her persistent efforts include pressing for increased military support from the U.S., such as advocating for more HIMARS, cluster munitions, F-16 pilot training slots and additional Patriot air defense systems.



James Rice **James Aaron Rice** is the Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, for whom he has worked since June 2000. In this role, James oversees Senator Grassley’s legislative agenda while also serving as the chief advisor to Senator Grassley on foreign policy matters. This includes staffing Senator Grassley in his role as co-chair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, where James coordinates with the three Baltic embassies and Baltic American organizations to build on the strong U.S.-Baltic partnership. James’s previous professional experience includes positions in the Iowa Senate, an internship with the British Conservative Party, and work on various political campaigns. James has been awarded the National Defence System of the Republic of Lithuania Medal of Merit for civilians as well as the Cross of Merit of the Estonian Ministry of Defence for his work on Baltic security. He has been selected as a National Review Institute Washington Fellow, a Hillsdale College Madison Fellow, an Atlantic Council Eurasia Congressional Fellow, and a Penn Kemble Forum on Democracy Fellow. James received a B.A. from Drake University with majors in political science and history and an M.A. in Statecraft and International Affairs from the Institute of World Politics. He speaks French. James was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. Level.

Panelists



Marcus Kolga is the founder and director of DisinfoWatch, a Canadian platform dedicated to monitoring and exposing foreign disinformation and influence campaigns. He is a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and the CDA Institute, and a human rights activist with a focus on combating authoritarian influence. Kolga has testified before the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament on topics including Magnitsky sanctions and Russian disinformation. His work has been featured in major publications, including *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, and *Maclean's*. In recognition of his advocacy, Kolga has been sanctioned by both the Russian and Chinese governments.



Yevhen Hlibovytskyi is the founder and director of the Frontier Institute, a Kyiv-based think tank established in 2023 to address Ukraine's strategic challenges and support its democratic transformation. He is also a member of the Supervisory Board of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA: PBC), contributing to the development of public media in the country. A seasoned public intellectual and strategic advisor, Hlibovytskyi co-founded the interdisciplinary Nestor Group, which engages in long-term strategic discussions on Ukraine's future. He has extensive experience in Ukraine's reform sector and has worked for the OSCE and other international organizations in countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Central and Eastern Europe.



Joseph P. Lindsley - Founder, Ukrainian Freedom News. Joseph P. Lindsley is an American journalist based in Ukraine, where he has been reporting from the front lines since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Lindsley began his journalistic career by founding *The Irish Rover*, an independent Catholic student newspaper. He later worked as a researcher for *The Weekly Standard* and served as editor-in-chief of two local newspapers in New York, where he collaborated closely with Fox News founder Roger Ailes. In 2017, Lindsley published a memoir, *Fake News, True Story*, detailing his experiences in the media industry. Since relocating to Ukraine in March 2020, he has been dedicated to independent journalism, founding Ukrainian Freedom News to provide daily reports and humanitarian support amidst the ongoing conflict.



David Kirichenko is a journalist and Fellow at the Henry Jackson Society, specializing in Eastern European politics and cybersecurity. He frequently reports from the frontlines of Ukraine, gaining firsthand insight into the latest military technology and defense innovations. His work provides in-depth analysis on democracy, disinformation, and regional security, with commentary featured in leading international media and policy forums.



Daniel Hryhorczuk, MD, MPH, FACMT. Dr. Hryhorczuk is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois School of Public Health with expertise in global health, environmental health, and epidemiology. He earned his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Illinois and completed his residency in occupational and environmental medicine at Cook County Hospital. He founded Chicago's Toxikon Consortium and directed the Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health, a WHO Collaborating Center. Dr. Hryhorczuk was part of the first World Bank environmental health mission to Ukraine. He has worked on environmental issues in Ukraine since its independence, including the Chernivtsi outbreak of chemical illness in children and the Chornobyl reactor accident. He is the co-principal investigator of the "Family and Children of Ukraine" study, and is the author of over 150 scientific publications and four novels that deal with Ukrainian themes. He is an international member of the Ukrainian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Panelists



Timothy B. Erickson, MD, FACEP, FACMT, FAACT, is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and a faculty member at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. His expertise spans humanitarian health, environmental toxicology, wastewater epidemiology, CBRNE, and acute injuries in global conflict and disaster settings. He is an emergency medicine physician at Mass General Brigham in Boston, where he serves as **Chief of Medical Toxicology**. Dr. Erickson earned his medical degree from the University of Health Sciences / Chicago Medical School, completed residency training in emergency medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and fellowship in toxicology at Cook County Hospital. He is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American College of Medical Toxicology, and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. An accomplished academic, he has served on multiple editorial boards, authored over 250 peer-reviewed publications, reviews, and textbook chapters, and edited six major textbooks. He has delivered more than 600 invited lectures worldwide. His work includes NATO-sponsored programs on preparedness, CBRNE terrorism, and environmental health, as well as numerous federally funded projects. With recognized expertise in global environmental toxicology, Dr. Erickson has extensive international experience, including numerous projects in Ukraine.



Adrian Karatnycky is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, specializing in democratic transitions, civil society, and human rights. He co-directs the Council's Ukraine in Europe program and has been a leading advocate for Ukraine's democratic development and European integration. From 1993 to 2004, Karatnycky served as President and Executive Director of Freedom House, where he developed programs supporting democratic and human rights movements in Belarus, Serbia, Russia, and Ukraine. He is the author of *Battleground Ukraine: From Independence to the War with Russia* and has contributed to major publications including *Foreign Policy*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Affairs*.



Volodymyr Viatrovych is a Ukrainian historian, civic activist, and Member of Parliament. He served as the Director of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance from 2014 to 2019, where he played a significant role in shaping Ukraine's national memory policies. Viatrovych has authored numerous works, including *Ukraine. KGB Secret Files History*, and has been involved in legislative efforts to promote Ukrainian historical narratives and restrict the import of Russian literature. He is currently serving as a People's Deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament.



Oleksandra Matviichuk - Chairwoman, Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) Oleksandra Matviichuk is a Ukrainian human rights lawyer and the Chairwoman of the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), a Kyiv-based organization dedicated to promoting democracy and human rights in Ukraine. Under her leadership, CCL has been instrumental in documenting war crimes and advocating for accountability, particularly in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In 2022, CCL was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to expose and combat human rights abuses. Matviichuk has also been recognized as one of the BBC's 100 Women of 2022 and received an honorary doctorate from Université catholique de Louvain in 2023.



Elina Beketova is a journalist from occupied Crimea and a Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). Through her work, she amplifies the voices of those silenced under Russian occupation, with a focus on human rights, disinformation, and the struggle for freedom of expression. She writes and speaks internationally about the challenges faced by journalists and civic activists in Ukraine and the broader region, highlighting the impact of Russian aggression on democratic values and media freedom.

Panelists



Sergio Jaramillo Caro, Senior Advisor, European Institute of Peace. Sergio is a Colombian philosopher, diplomat, and seasoned public servant. He served as High Commissioner for Peace (2012–2017) and National Security Advisor (2010–2012) under President Juan Manuel Santos. In these roles, he led the secret and public negotiations that culminated in the 2016 peace agreement with the FARC guerrillas, overseeing disarmament and demobilization efforts. Jaramillo also served as Vice Minister of Defense, where he shaped human rights-oriented security policy, and later represented Colombia as Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium. He currently advises the European Institute of Peace.



Steven A. Dishler served as a combat soldier in the Israeli Defense Forces and later as liaison officer to foreign forces, working with the United Nations as well as Egyptian and Jordanian officers to ensure compliance with international agreements. In 1994, he was called upon to help plan the historic Jordan–Israel Peace Treaty ceremony in coordination with the Governments of Israel, Jordan, and the United States. Since joining the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, he has served as Assistant Vice President for International and Public Affairs. In this role, he briefs members of the local foreign consular corps, publishes analyses on the legacy of Oslo, U.S.–Israel relations, Islamic extremism, and U.S. policy in the Middle East. Dishler has lectured at Notre Dame, Northwestern, Loyola, and DePaul and frequently speaks on global affairs. He also organized a local multi-faith committee to address the genocide in Darfur, earning ADL’s Bernard Nath Award for Distinguished Leadership in 2007. More recently, he founded a Muslim–Jewish Working Group to strengthen relations between the two communities.



Suzanne Akhras Sahloul is a Syrian-American humanitarian activist and politician, best known as the founder and former Executive Director of the Syrian Community Network (SCN), a Chicago-based nonprofit established in 2015 to support refugee resettlement and integration in the U.S. Under her leadership, SCN provided vital services—including mentorship, language assistance, and educational, legal, and immigration support—to hundreds of Syrian refugee families across Illinois. She has been recognized with humanitarian awards from UNICEF Chicago and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and was named a recipient of the Nation of Neighbor Empowerment Award in 2022.

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