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UNISSUED DIPLOMAS TRIBUTE TO HELP MARK 3RD YEAR OF RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE INVASION

Feb. 11, 2025, Seattle - Ukraine Defense Support, [Ukrainian Students United](#) at the University of Washington and the [Toloka Cultural Center](#), are hosting the deeply moving exhibition [Unissued Diplomas](#) from Feb. 18 - March 14 at the UW Allen Library. The exhibition is a global tribute honoring the memory of 40 Ukrainian students whose futures were tragically cut short by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

[Unissued Diplomas](#) has been shared at more than 250 exhibitions in 30 countries across the world. The three presenting partners for the Seattle exhibition hope it helps raise awareness of the third anniversary of Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Feb. 24, 2022, and the price Ukrainians are paying for freedom.

"Quite a few Ukrainian refugees in Washington state are university students. We cannot allow the memory of the students in Ukraine whose lives were taken from them by Russia to fade," said Lina Ngo, a Ukrainian UDS volunteer who is one of the leaders bringing the exhibition to Seattle.

"One of the most horrific things about Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine is the number of children and young people the invaders have indiscriminately killed," said Carl Larson, president and co-founder of UDS, a U.S. Army Iraq War veteran who fought in Ukraine's International Legion in eastern Ukraine in 2022. "We are grateful for the opportunity to honor their memory."

The Unissued Diploma's exhibition is just one of the ways UDS and the Ukrainian community in Washington state will mark the Feb. 24th anniversary. Other ways include:

- UDS will share the sound of the air raid siren Ukrainians hear every day at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia on Monday, February 24 at noon. The short air raid recording will demonstrate what it is like to hear this siren every day and night for the past 1,095 days of Russia's full-scale invasion.
- Local buildings and landmarks, including the Great Wheel in Seattle, will be lit in Ukrainian blue and yellow.
- UDS volunteers will participate in the "Ask Me About Ukraine" campaign on Saturday, Feb. 22nd in various locations around the greater Seattle area. Small groups will sit outside with posters that say "Ask me about Ukraine" with an open chair for passersby to engage in conversation about Ukraine.

- UDS volunteers will participate in the [War is Not Over](#) march and rally from Pike's Place Market to the Space Needle in Seattle on Sunday, Feb. 23rd from 11 am to 3 pm, led by the Ukraine Association of Washington State.

Ukraine Defense Support was founded in 2022 by Carl Larson and Pam Dalan, both of Seattle, after Larson's return from serving in the International Legion in Ukraine. UDS sends urgently needed supplies, including night vision equipment, drones, Humvees and other vehicles, portable generators, military clothing and medical supplies to Ukraine's frontlines. UDS is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that has raised more than \$1.2 million to help keep as many of Ukraine's defenders alive as possible. EIN 92-2693929 <https://ukrainedefensesupport.org/>

Unissued Diplomas Exhibition Details:

When: Opening - Feb. 18 at 6 pm / Closing - March 13

Where: Allen Library, University of Washington

Additional: Panel discussion, Ukrainian crafts workshops, movie screenings combined with the exhibition - details coming soon.

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