



DEFENDERS OF  
Faith and Religious  
Freedom in Ukraine

## The Defenders Dispatch

Friends,

Welcome to the second installment of the Defenders Dispatch. We have had a busy September of meetings and conversations, all for the purpose of bringing attention to the plight of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ, who are facing persecution at the hands of the Russian Armed Forces. We appreciate your continued advocacy and interest in this important issue. May God protect Ukraine and bring about a just and peaceful end to this war.

Read my new [op-ed](#) in the Washington Times about my recent trip to the Yalta European Strategy (YES) in Kyiv. I discuss the 20,000+ Ukrainian children that have been kidnapped by Russian forces since the invasion, how God is performing miracles, and stopping Putin.

Gary Marc, President, Defenders of Faith and Religious Freedom in Ukraine

### Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast

On September 15th-16th, members of the Defenders of Faith and Religious Freedom in Ukraine team joined a Ukrainian delegation at the [Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast](#) in New York City. During the event, we prayed alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters and held a panel discussion on the Axis of Evil (Russia, Hamas, Iran, China, and North Korea), which has formed to attack the Judeo-Christian values of the West.

Read my [op-ed](#) in the Christian Post on Why US Evangelicals who support Israel should also back Ukraine.



### Strategic Consultations Meetings in D.C.

I had the privilege of participating in and speaking on a panel during the 2024 Strategic Consultations meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 17th and 18th. These annual Consultations foster a partnership between Ukraine and the United States based on the eternal truths and teachings of Jesus Christ.

During the Consultations, we also met with the U.S. State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom (OIRF), the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), and the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), just to name a few. During these meetings we presented facts and firsthand testimonies of Russia's persecution of Ukrainian Evangelicals.



### Hudson Institute Recap

Thank you to Nina Shea (Director, Center for Religious Freedom) and the Hudson Institute for hosting a fantastic panel on [Religion in the Crossfire between Russia and Ukraine](#). The panelists discussed the Russian Armed Forces' atrocities in Ukraine, including their deliberate attacks against churches and Evangelical Christians, and addressed a new law aimed at protecting religious freedom by de-linking the Kremlin and religious organizations operating in Ukraine.

The panel featured leading experts including: Dr. Maksym Vasin (Executive Director, Institute for Religious Freedom, Ukraine), Lauren Hemer (President, Law and Liberty Trust), Dmitry Bodju (Founder and Pastor, World of Life Church), Dr. Kathryn Hanson (Head of Research, Smithsonian Cultural Rescues Initiative), and Olexandr Aliksichuk (Member of the Verkhovna Rada).

Link to the Full Event [here](#).



Thank you again for your support and advocacy on behalf of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ. We must continue to work together to help in finding a just peace and end to the horrific war in Ukraine.

Please feel free to forward this to friends and encourage others to sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

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