



CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACTIVISTS IN TIMES  
OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



# CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACTIVISTS IN TIMES OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

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With the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian civil society was faced with the need to continue its work in the face of personal danger, responsibility and anxiety for loved ones, often having to evacuate from the areas of active hostilities.

The civil society of Ukraine has shown high resilience. The development of this resilience was, among other things, fostered by the support of international funds and government programs in the EU countries. The activists were able to unite, use the acquired qualifications and experience and, as a result, quickly respond to the challenges of the war, adapt their activities in accordance with the changing needs of society. Also, the war brought into the ranks of activists many of those who had not previously engaged in such work. In the situation of a global threat, the cohesion of Ukrainian society and its readiness for volunteer work have grown to new heights.

Under the current conditions, the civil societies of Ukraine and other countries play one of the key roles in supporting Ukraine in the rear

and at the front, taking care of the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid, help to the defenders of the country, refugees, documenting human rights violations and war crimes, advocating support for Ukraine abroad, strengthening Ukrainian subjectivity at the international level.

The stories of real people presented in this publication show civil society as an important actor in countering Russia's aggression, lobbying for more active support for Ukraine by the international community and covering the topic of Ukraine in the media space, working with the consequences of the war and post-war reconstruction of the country. The stories of heroes and heroines demonstrate the range of social and political challenges, personal risks faced by active citizens in Ukraine and in other countries due to the war unleashed by the Kremlin.

With these stories, we want to motivate the international community to support Ukraine, and the societies of the countries of the world to be ready to sacrifice some of their personal comfort in order to help others.

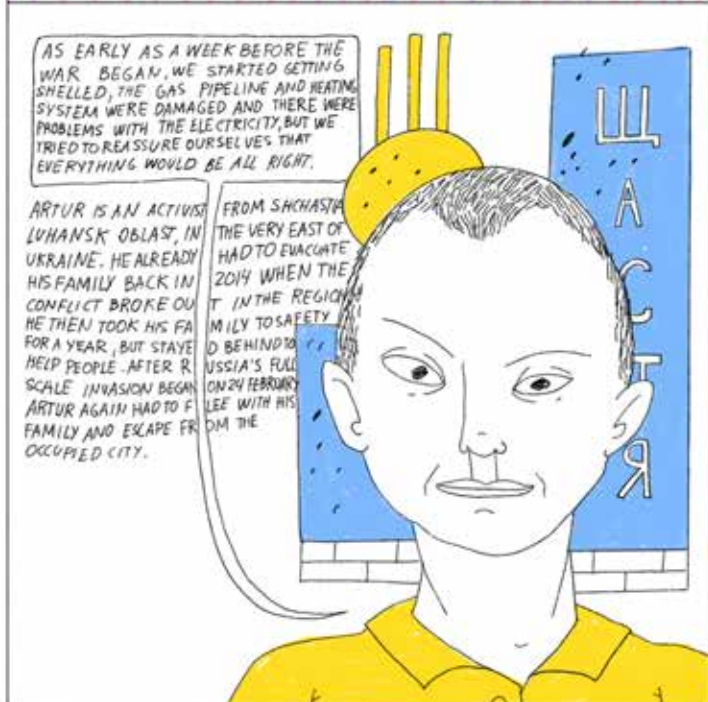


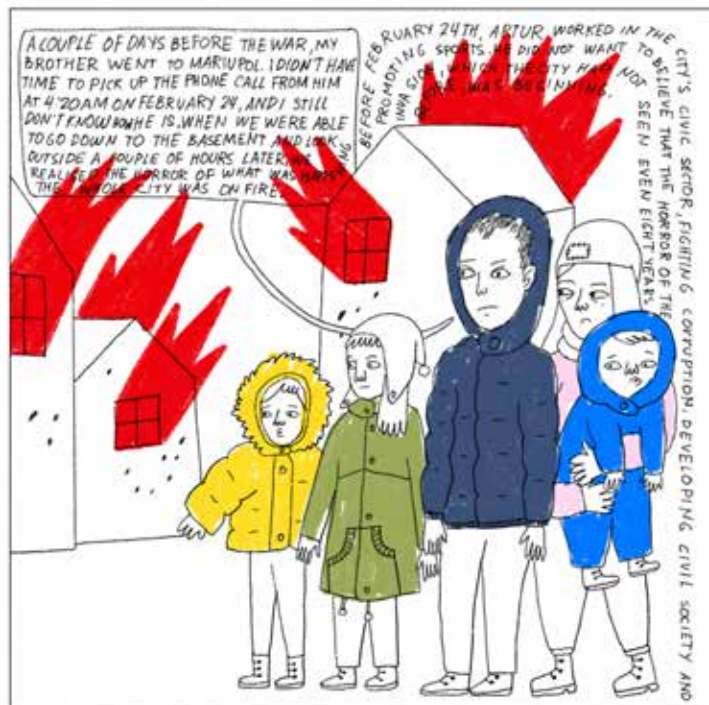
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the CivilMPlus platform and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ARTUR







A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THE WAR, MY BROTHER WENT TO MARIUPOL. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO PICK UP THE PHONE CALL FROM HIM AT 4:20AM ON FEBRUARY 24, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS. WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT AND LIVE OUTSIDE A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, WE REALIZED THE HORROR OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THE ENTIRE CITY WAS ON FIRE.

BEFORE FEBRUARY 24TH, ARTUR WORKED IN THE CITY'S CIVIC SECTOR, FIGHTING CORRUPTION, DEVELOPING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROMOTING SPORTS. HE DID NOT WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THE HORROR OF THE WAR WAS BEING SEEN EVEN EIGHT YEARS IN ADVANCE.

THE SHELLING WITH GRAD ROCKET SYSTEMS AND MORTARS CONTINUED FOR 16-17 HOURS. I COULD ONLY GO OUTSIDE FOR FIVE MINUTES AT THE MOST, THEN I WOULD TAKE PICTURES OF THE DAMAGE IN THE CITY, POST THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SEND THEM TO MY FRIENDS.

MOBILE COMMUNICATION IN STABLE. FROM MESSAGES I REALIZED THAT IT WAS THAT WAS UNDER A MASSIVE WHOLE OF UKRAINE.

THE CITY WAS NOT FROM FRIENDS, ARTUR NOT ONLY SEENASTIA ATTACK, BUT THE





I WOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED OR TAKEN PRISONER FOR MY PRO-UKRAINIAN POSITION. WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE TO MY FAMILY.

I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE WORK OF THE CITY'S MEDICS. THE AMBULANCE CONTINUED TO WORK EVEN DURING THE SHELLING TRANSPORTING EVERYONE WHO COULD BE SAVED.

IN ONE OF THE SHORT PERIODS OF SILENCE ARTUR AND HIS FRIENDS DID A RUNAROUND THE TOWN TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. ALL THE HOUSES THEY SAW WERE DAMAGED. PRIVATE HOUSES HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY DIRECT HITS. THERE WAS ALSO A LOT OF BLOOD ON THE STREETS.



HE COULD NOT STOP WORRYING FOR HIS FAMILY. THE PAIN AND HELPLESSNESS CAUSED BY THE HAVOC IN HIS BELOVED CITY DEVASTATED HIM FROM WITHIN. OUR MILITARY ADVISED US TO GO TO NOVOAIDAR, BUT WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN SACHASTIA IN THE BASEMENT.



ONCE WE REACHED THE NEXT TOWN, NOVOAIDAR AND FELT RELATIVELY SAFE, I WAS READY TO KISS THE GROUND.

THE ROAD WAS TERRIBLE. SHELL CRATERS AND ABANDONED CARS WERE EVERYWHERE BUT EVEN THERE I DECIDED NOT TO STOP FOR LONG, AND DROVE ON. THERE WERE NO PEOPLE IN THE CAR AND WE HAD TO DRIVE THROUGH THE UNREMOVED SHELLS.

НОВОАЙДАР

УКРЕМІННА АНІПРО





ONCE HE REACHED THE CITY OF DNIPRO IN CENTRAL UKRAINE, ARTUR BECAME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PUBLIC LIFE, HELPING THE TERRITORIAL DEFENCE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE WITH INFORMATION WORK AND THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID. AFTER GIVING IT SOME THOUGHT, ARTUR AND HIS FAMILY DECIDED TO TAKE THE CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE WAR, FIRST TO THE WESTERNMOST REGION OF UKRAINE, ZAKARPATTIA, AND FROM THERE FURTHER AFIELD, ABROAD. EVEN THERE HE LOOKS FOR WAYS TO BE USEFUL TO THE COUNTRY. HE GATHERS MEDICINE, MONEY AND EQUIPMENT, BUT NO MATTER WHAT, HE WANTS TO RETURN HOME.



I WILL GO BACK TO UKRAINE. MY ELDEST DAUGHTER IS PLANNING TO GO TO UNIVERSITY ONLY IN UKRAINE - WE HAVE SEEN MORE IN EUROPE THAT WE CAN IMPLEMENT IN OUR SOCIETY

FOR ARTUR, UKRAINE IS THE BEST COUNTRY WHICH HAS EVERYTHING FOR DEVELOPMENT: NATURE, RESOURCES, LOCATION AND ACTIVE PEOPLE. HE ALREADY HAS A PLAN TO MAKE SICHASTIA THE BEST CITY IN LVRANSK OBLAST

80% OF SUCCESS DEPENDS ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND ITS CONSCIOUSNESS. MY DREAM IS TO BUILD A MODERN SPORTS COMPLEX AND STADIUM IN SICHASTIA. DEVELOPING THE CULTURE OF SPORTS AND ENGAGING CHILDREN IN IT SOMETHING I'M READY TO DO ALL THE TIME. SICHASTIA SHOULD EXIST AND THE ENERGY OF SICHASTIA SHOULD RESOUND IN THE WORLD (THIS IS WORDPLAY, SINCE SICHASTIA IN UKRAINIAN MEANS HAPPINESS)



DMYTRO  
REVNIUK



WHEN I SAVED THE FIRST CAT, I HAD FEARS IN MY EYES. HE WAITED FOR A HUMAN FOR 20 DAYS. HE SMUGGLED UP TO ME AND PURR'D SO INTENSELY THAT I JUST WANTED TO SAVE MORE PETS.

DMYTRO REYNIUK IS A FILM AND AD. PRODUCER AND SINCE THE START OF THE AGGRESSION, HE IS AN ANIMAL ACTIVIST. LARGE-SCALE

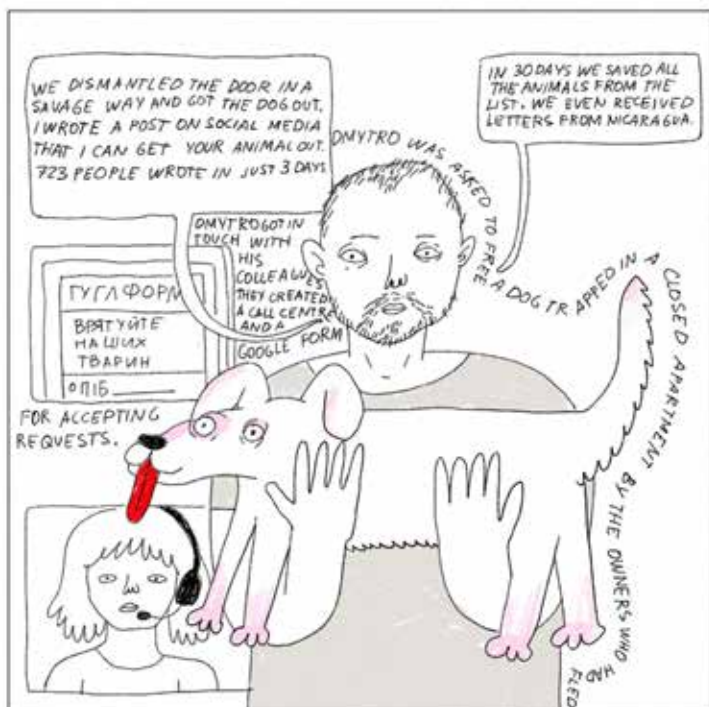


ALREADY A WEEK BEFORE THE WAR MY FRIENDS FROM THE US OFFERED TO GO TO TURKEY AND EVEN BOUGHT TICKETS, BUT THEN I JUST LAUGHED! WHAT WAR? MY WIFE WAS DUE TO GIVE BIRTH SOON.

DMYTRO WAS SHOCKED BY THE SCALE OF THE INVASION AND HOW PEOPLE REACTED. SOME WERE FLEEING, OTHERS WERE WALKING THE STREETS, EVEN AS MILITARY COLUMNS WERE COMING CLOSE FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS HE DID NOT KNOW NO PLANS TO LEAVE. YOU GO IF THEY

WHAT TO DO, THERE WERE AND WHERE DO BOMB EVERYWHERE?





WE FOUND SPONSORS, DOCTORS, BOUGHT EQUIPMENT AND BEGAN TO TRANSFER ANIMALS TO OUR PLACE. TODAY WE HAVE ANOTHER CLINIC SPECIALISING IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES. THEY ALSO OPENED A SHELTER IN BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC. WE ARE BUILDING ENCLOSURES, HOUSES, THERE WILL BE HEATED FLOORS, A PLACE FOR WALKING SEPARATE BOXES FOR CATS WITH HIV, INFECTIOUS BOXES.



КЛИНИКА



MANY ANIMALS NEEDED VETERINARY CARE. THUS, THE IDEA TO OPEN HIS OWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL WAS BORN.

WE INVITE STARS, THEY PLAY WITH THE ANIMALS, SPEND TIME TOGETHER, WE SHOOT IT BEAUTIFULLY, EDIT IT AND THEY PROMOTE IT ON THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES. AND THINGS WENT WELL - MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING TO GET A PET.

DMYTRO'S FIRST PRIORITY AFTER PROVIDING THE NECESSARY MEDICAL ATTENTION TO THE ANIMALS IS TO FIND THEM NEW FAMILIES. THIS IS WHERE FILMMAKING EXPERIENCE CAME IN HANDY. DMYTRO WANTS TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC ANIMAL CARE SYSTEM IN HIS REGION.

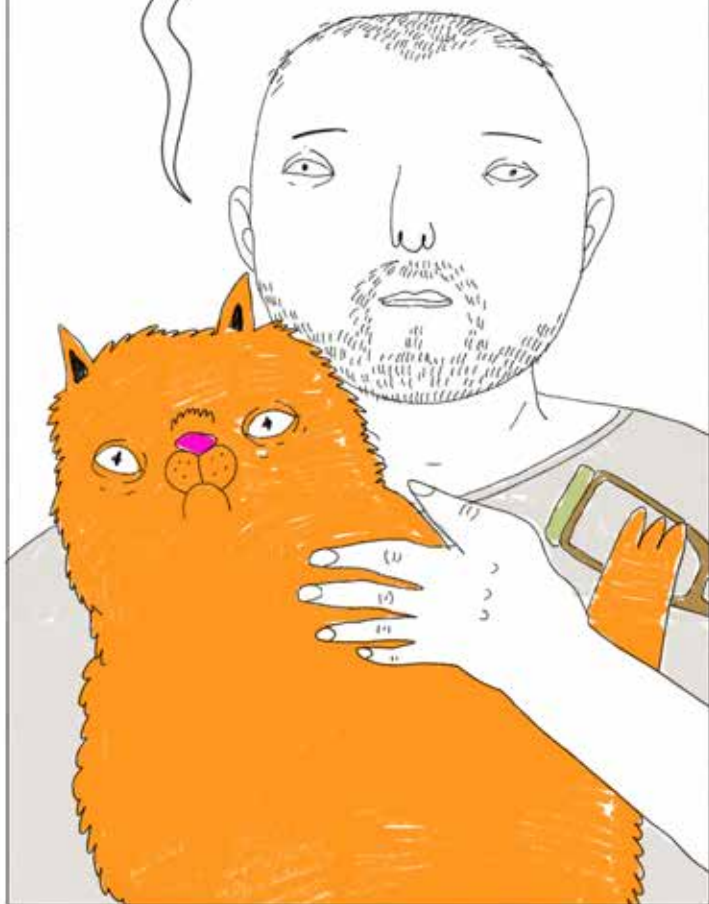




DMYTRO WANTS TO BUILD A BIG HOSPITAL - A REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR ANIMALS WITH SPINAL PROBLEMS. SUCH PATIENTS NEED SPECIAL CARE TREATMENT PROGRAMS, SWIMMING POOLS, TREADMILLS, BUT BEFORE

ALL THAT THE MAIN THING FOR HIM NOW IS VICTORY IN THE WAR.

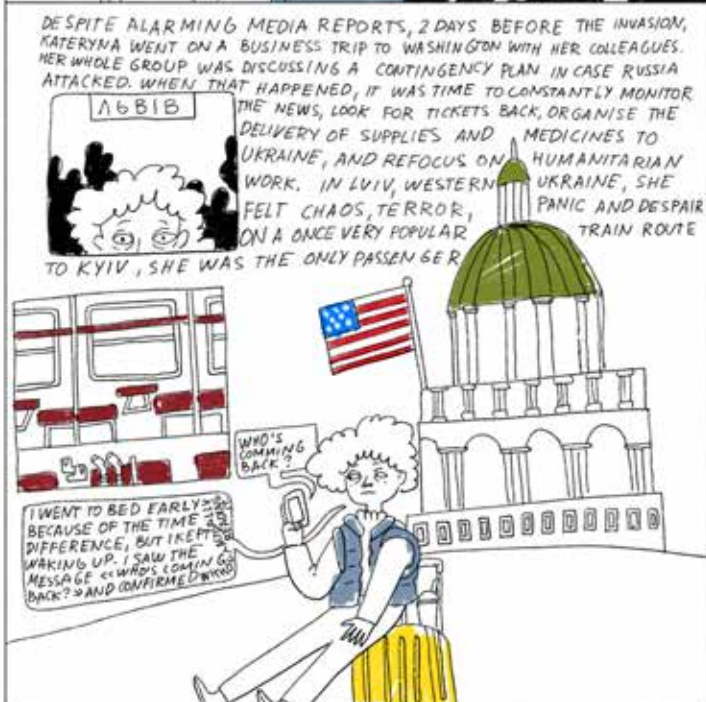
I AM A RESPONSIBLE PERSON. I HAVE A TEAM AND I HAVE NO RIGHT TO QUIT WHAT I STARTED. I HAVE TO FINISH.

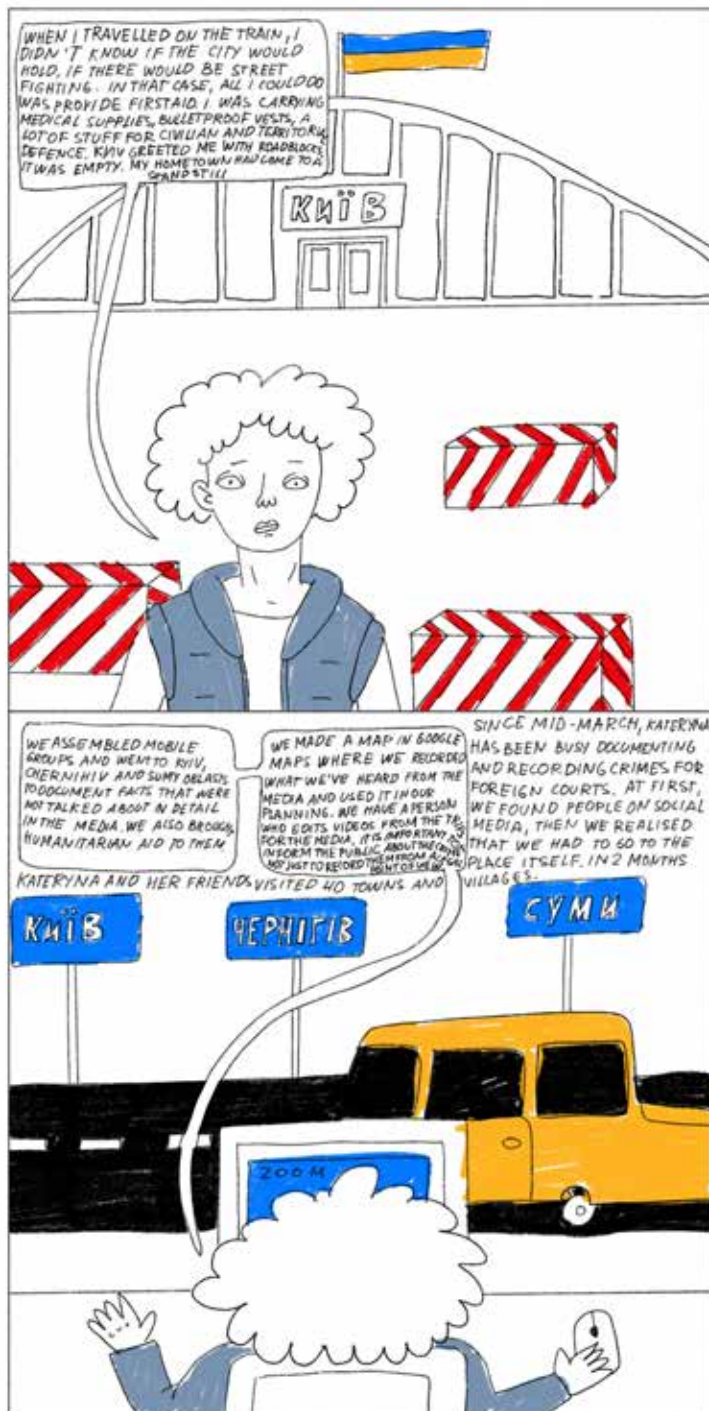






KATERYNA  
BUTKO



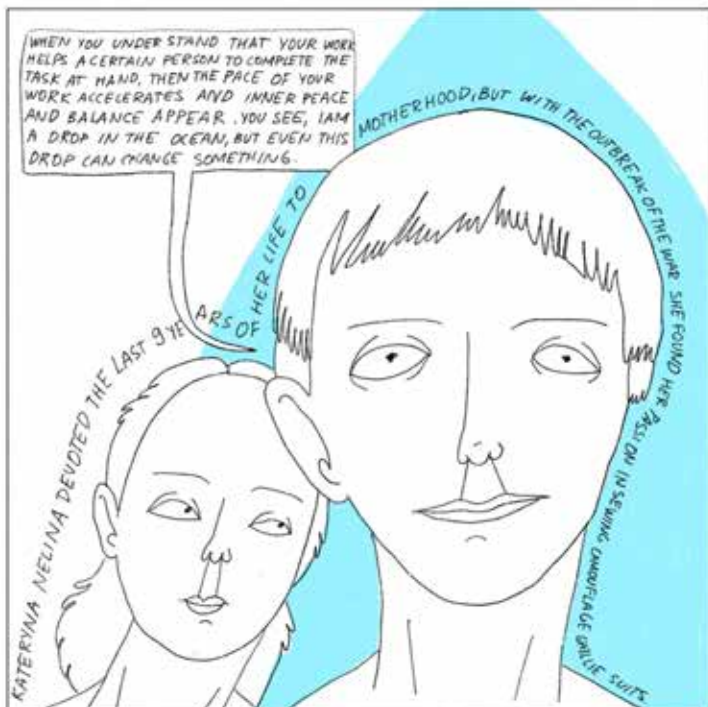




KATERYNA

NELINA









WE WOKED UP VERY EARLY FROM THE EXPLOSIONS AND ONLY LATER REALIZED THAT THIS WAS THE SOUND OF AIR DEFENCE WORKING, BUT THEN NO ONE COULD RECOGNIZE IT. WITH TREMBLING HANDS AND CONFUSED THOUGHTS, THEY GATHERED THEIR BELONGINGS AND DECIDED TO LEAVE. IT WAS DIFFICULT NOT TO SHOW MY EMOTIONS TO MY CHILD WHO UNDERSTOOD THAT SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING, AND WE

DESPITE BEING OPTIMISTIC, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE START OF THE FULL-FLEDGED WAR, KATERYNA KEPT HER CAR'S TANK FULL, PREPARED ALL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND THINGS.

CENTS

ONE DAY BEFORE THE INVASION, WE CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WHO IS NOT AFRAID OF A SEWING MACHINE?

KATERYNA REACHED TERNOPII ONE DAY ON THE STREET SHE SAW THAT PEOPLE WERE GATHERING AT THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY TO WEAVE CAMOUFLAGE NETS AND WERE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. KATERYNA RESPONDED TO THE CALL.

I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT AFRAID AND THAT I NEEDED MORE WORK TO DO. WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR OWN HANDS, YOU FEEL BETTER. SO I AGREED WITHOUT GIVING IT MUCH THOUGHT AND HAVE BEEN BUSY FOR MONTHS AT MY NEW PLACE.

I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT NOW THAT EVERYTHING CAN BE CHANGED. AND EVEN MORE CONFIDENCE COMES FROM THE FEEDBACK FROM THE RECIPIENTS ABOUT THE CUT, COMFORT AND ADDITIONAL OPTIONS. THIS HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR WORK IS NEEDED AND HELPS THEM TO COMPLETE TASKS.

ON AVERAGE, A CAMOUFLAGE OUTFIT FOR ONE PERSON IS MADE IN A DAY AND A HALF, BUT IT CAN BE FASTER. IN TOTAL, KATERYNA SEWED MORE THAN 70 GHILLIE SUITS.





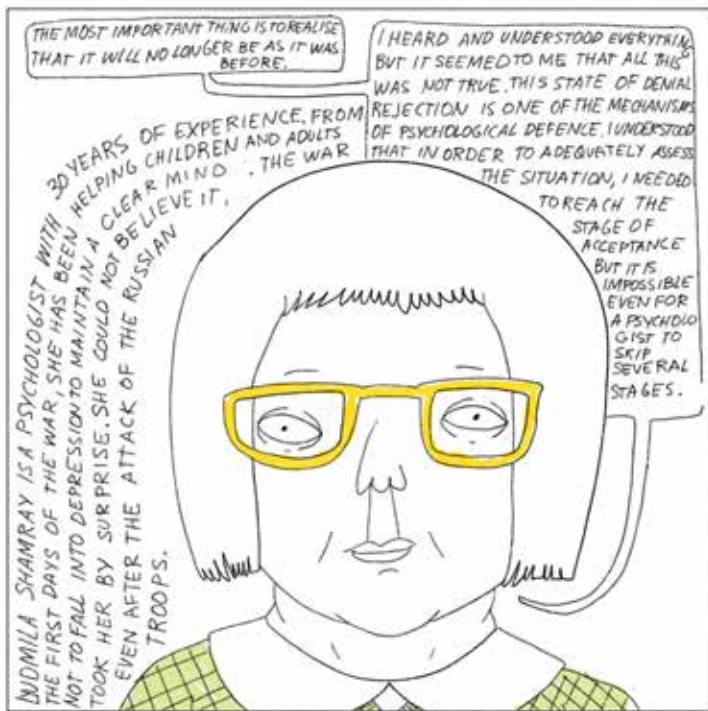
KATERYNA USED TO TRAVEL A LOT AND EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT MOVING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. BUT ALL THIS IS GONE FOREVER.

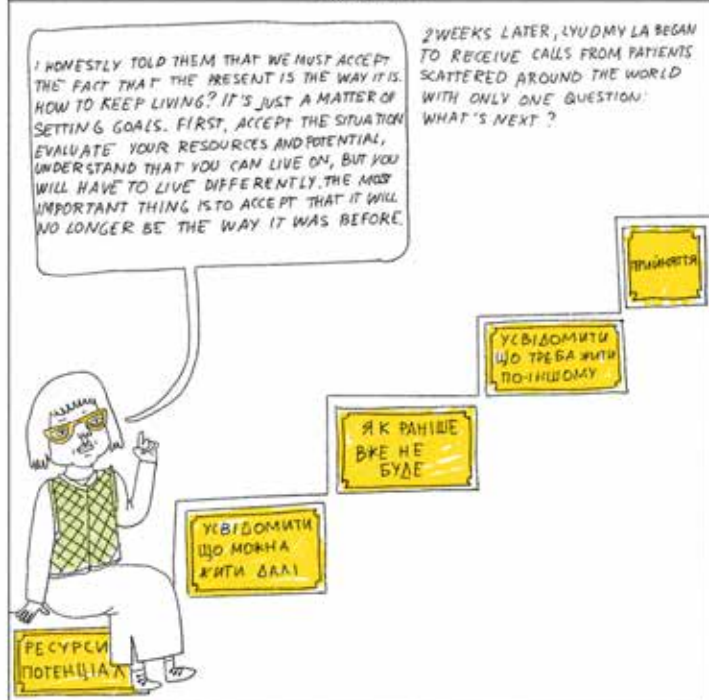
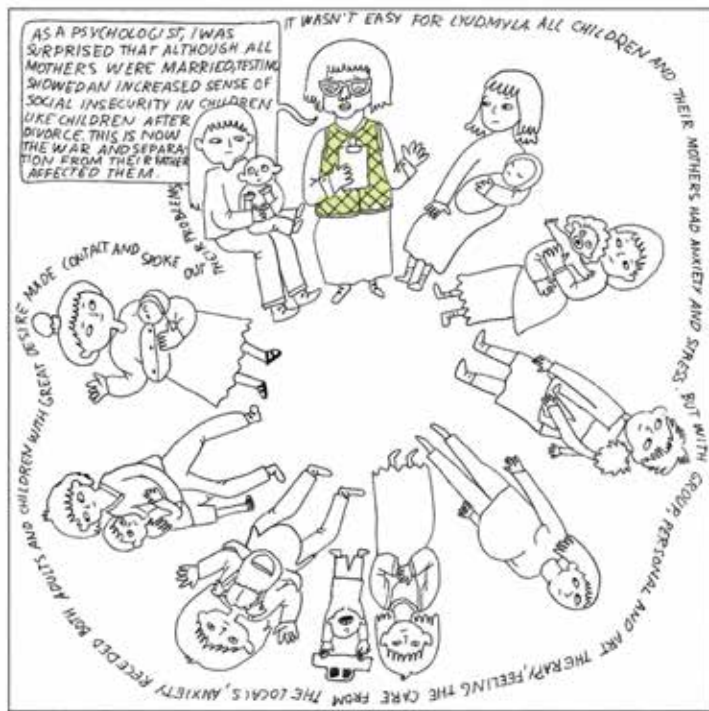


LYUDMYLA



SHAMRAY







LYUDMYLA WORKS AT A FREE PHONE CONSULTATION. EVERY WEEK THERE ARE ABOUT 10 SUCH CALLS. LYUDMYLA AND HER COLLEAGUES MANAGE TO DO THE MAINE THING DURING THEIR CONSULTATION-TO MAKE A PERSON TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THE PROBLEM, TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WAYS OUT OF THE CRISIS ARE.

WE ARE LIKE A HELPLINE AND A PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE IN ONE. PEOPLE ARE CALLING NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE WAR OR STRESS, SOME CANNOT SOLVE CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN THEIR FAMILY OR WITH CHILDREN.

RIGHT NOW, I AM DEVELOPING A MANUAL WITH A PLAN OF ACTIONS ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE. I AM PLANNING TO HOLD THE FIRST TRAINING FOR PRACTISING PSYCHOLOGISTS.

АЛГОРИТМ  
ДІЙ ІЗ  
ПТСР  
ТА  
ВІЙНИ



NASTYA



NASTYA IS A MEMBER OF SEVERAL RUSSIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND INITIATIVES. WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR, NASTYA BEGAN TO HELP PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM UKRAINE. WHEN PEOPLE CALL HER A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, SHE IS A LITTLE CONFUSED.

I AM OFTEN CALLED THAT, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT BELIEVE IT MYSELF. I HAVE NEVER DEFENDED A RIGHT - I DEFEND PEOPLE. IF THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IS PERSECUTING OR ATTACKING SOMEONE, THIS IS MY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.



I CAN HANDLE A CRISIS WHEN I KNOW WHAT TO DO, AT FIRST, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FIRST. FLEE TO EUROPE AND HELP THERE? CONTINUE WORKING? PUT UP ANTI-WAR LEAFLETS? EVERYTHING I DID LOST ITS MEANING, ALTHOUGH THE REPRESSIONS CONTINUED - FRIENDS WERE IMPRISONED UNDER CHARGES ABOUT FAKES, AND ORGANISATIONS WE HAD LINKS TO WERE SHUT DOWN. IN ANY CASE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS IN THE USUAL WAY AND IGNORE THE WAR.

THE MOST DIFFICULT PART IS TO UNDERSTAND WHOM AND HOW YOU CAN HELP.



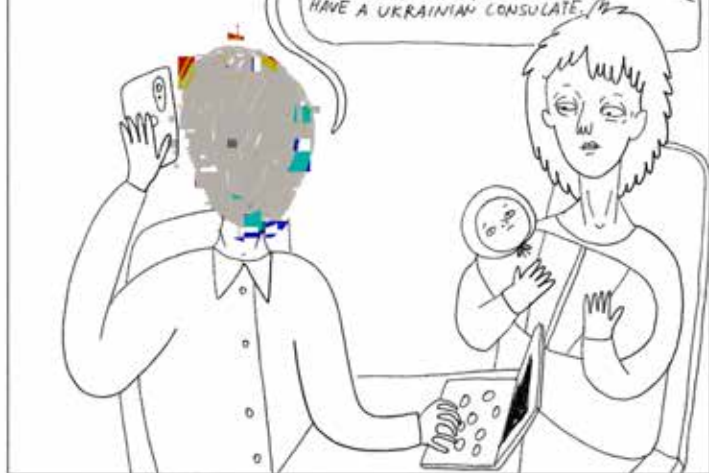
AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM UKRAINE NEEDED HELP. THOSE WHO WANTED TO LEAVE WERE HELPED WITH TRANSPORT AND DOCUMENTS, THOSE WHO REMAINED - WITH HOUSING EMPLOYMENT AND LEGAL SUPPORT.

IN 2014, I HAD ALREADY COME ACROSS PEOPLE WHO WERE LEAVING DONBAS AND KNEW THE INS AND OUTS. IT STARTED WITH A COLLEAGUE WHO RECEIVED A REQUEST TO GET TICKETS TO ESTONIA. REQUESTS CAME ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND WE REALISED THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE ABOUT IT. SEVERAL SIMILAR INITIATIVES AND GROUPS HAVE EMERGED WORKING ON A NETWORK BASIS. THERE WERE GROUPS HELPING WITH HOUSING, THERE WERE THOSE WHO ORGANISED TRANSPORT. THE MAIN THING THAT I NOTICED WAS A FANTASTIC ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH EACH OTHER.

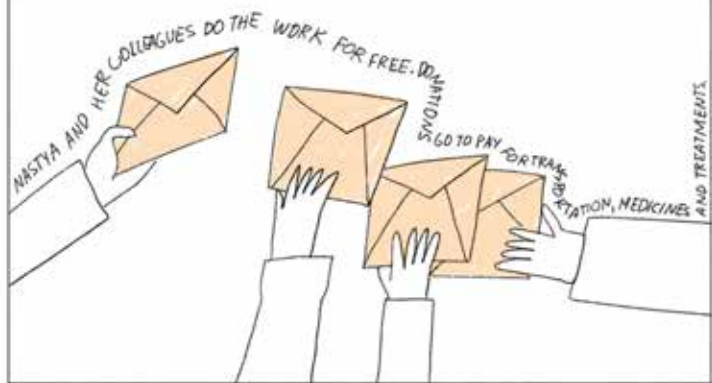


ALTHOUGH NASTYA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT RUSSIAN ACTIVISTS WORKING WITH UKRAINIANS HAS BECOME HER MAIN FOCUS.

MY SPECIALISATION IS PEOPLE WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP, CITIZENS OF THIRD COUNTRIES AND CHILDREN BORN IN MARIUPOLE WHO DO NOT HAVE ANY DOCUMENTS OTHER THAN A CERTIFICATE FROM THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL. I AM LOOKING FOR OPTIONS WHERE AND WHAT DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED. FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, THOSE PEOPLE WHO REMAIN HAVE FEWER PROBLEMS. LEAVING FOR THE EU IS PRACTICALLY AN UNSOLVABLE TASK, GIVEN THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE A UKRAINIAN CONSULATE.



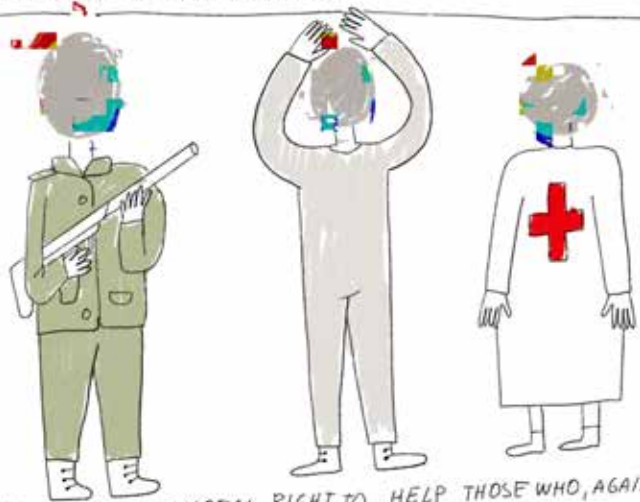
EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF «FRIENDS CHIPPING IN» THERE ARE NO SYSTEMIC FINANCING AND IT'S ALSO NOT POSSIBLE THE STATE BLOCKS ANY ATTEMPT AT ORGANISED FUNDRAISING.



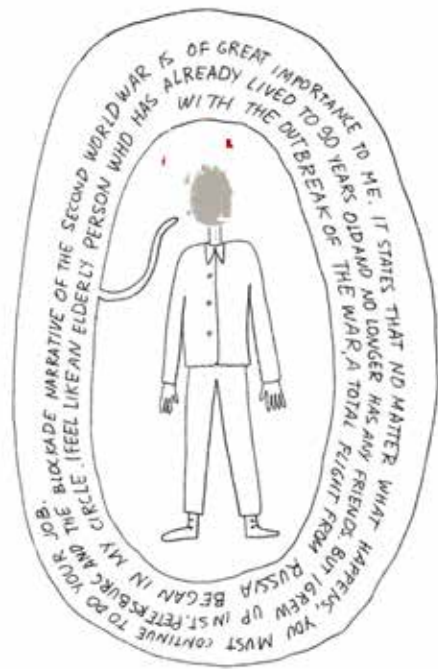
OLDER PEOPLE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES WHEN THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEIR STORE AND PHARMACY ARE, WHAT KIND OF COTTAGE CHEESE THEY WANT FOR BREAKFAST, AND WHAT MEDICINES THEY NEED. IN RUSSIA, THEY ARE THREATENED WITH A NURSING HOME OR A STATE CARE FACILITY - THE WORST PLACES.



THERE ARE ONLY 3 POSITIONS IN THE WAR. THE FIRST IS TO FIGHT FOR ONE OF THE SIDES. YOU NEED TO CHOOSE THIS SIDE AND ADMIT TO YOURSELF THIS CHOICE. THE SECOND IS THAT OF A CIVILIAN, THE OBJECT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIONS. THE THIRD IS TO BE A RED CROSS OF SOME SORT. THEIR TASK IS TO HUMANISE WHAT IS HAPPENING. I CHOSE THIS POSITION. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MANY MAY NOT LIKE IT PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL TO TAKE A STAND.



DO RUSSIANS HAVE A MORAL RIGHT TO HELP THOSE WHO, AGAINST THEIR WILL, ENDED UP ON THE TERRITORY OF AN AGGRESSOR COUNTRY?

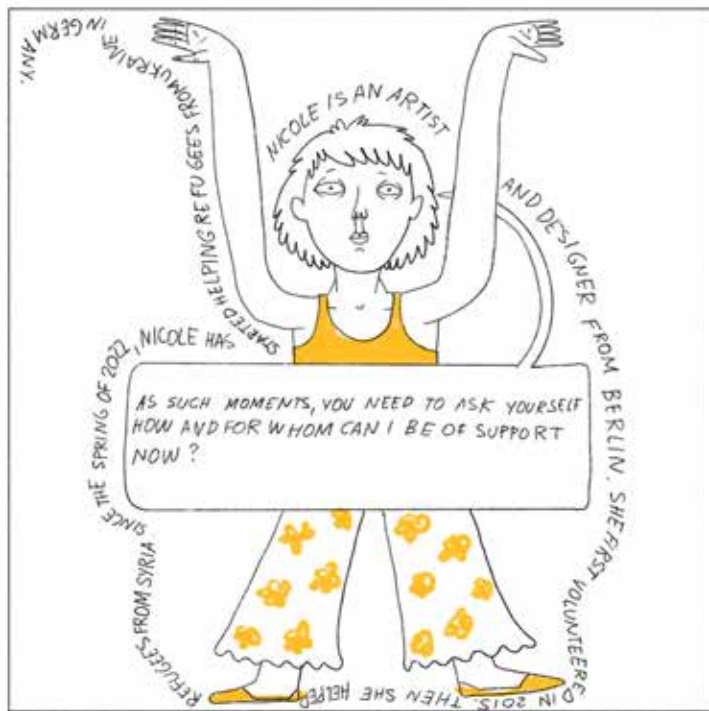




NICOLE







DESPITE THE FACT THAT NICOLE KNEW ABOUT THE BOMBINGS, THE ESCAPE AND THE LOSS OF RELATIVES FROM REFUGEES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN, THE RUSSIAN ATTACK ON UKRAINE SHOCKED HER UNEXPECTEDLY DEEPLY.



AS IN 2015, WHEN FACED WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S GRIEF, NICOLE IMMEDIATELY FELT THE NEED TO HELP OTHERS. FIRST OF ALL, HER FAMILY COLLECTED AND SENT A LARGE PACKAGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE. BUT FROM PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE SHE KNEW THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN GERMANY AND NEED SUPPORT.

I UNDERSTOOD THAT PEOPLE WOULD NOW BE RESETTLED AND PROVIDED WITH EVERYTHING NECESSARY, BUT THEY NEEDED HELP TO FIT INTO THE BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURES. I WROTE TO THE ACCOMMODATION MANAGER AND OFFERED TO HELP WITH BUREAUCRATIC ISSUES AND WITH THE CHILDREN. PARENTS ARE BUSY ON THE PHONE, WITH PAPERS DEALING WITH THE AUTHORITIES. I WANTED TO GIVE THE CHILDREN A LITTLE JOY, TO ORGANISE SOME KIND OF ACTIVITY FOR THEM.



IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE SIMPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE TASKS TO THE KIDS SO THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THEM TO OCCUPY THEMSELVES, BUT IT DID NOT WORK OUT VERY WELL. THE CHILDREN WERE FROM DIFFERENT FAMILY AGES AND EXPERIENCES OF WAR. IT WAS RATHER IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THEM BUSY WITH THE SAME ACTIVITY.



AFTER A WHILE, NICOLE FOCUSED ON HELPING ONE PARTICULAR FAMILY, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMED TO HER AT FIRST THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE THE INNER STRENGTH TO PROVIDE SOMEONE WITH SUCH PERSONAL HELP.

IT HAPPENS THAT IT IS ENOUGH TO EXCHANGE A FEW WORDS WITH A PERSON AND CONNECTION EMERGES. I DID NOT WANT TO GET SO INVOLVED INITIALLY, BUT AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS WE INVITED THEM TO OUR PLACE. DURING THIS TIME, WE BECAME FRIENDS.





USUALLY I DON'T GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE SO QUICKLY BUT THEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AND YOU JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY, SEEING HOW THIS WOMAN SUPPORTS HER CHILD WITH THE LAST OF HER STRENGTH. YOU CAN'T COME HOME AND SAY TO YOURSELF - WELL DONE, I DID MY BEST. YOU THINK ABOUT HOW TO HELP MORE.





OKSANA



KARPOVETS-



LYSENKO









OKSANA HAS DONE A LOT IN HER 44 YEARS: SHE IS RAISING 3 CHILDREN, SHE BECAME A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEACHER, ECONOMIST, WORKER IN CONSTRUCTION AND FOR A LONG TIME IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SHE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, VOLUNTEERED AND MADE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. SHE TRIED NOT TO TAKE TALK ABOUT A POSSIBLE INVASION SERIOUSLY.

ДИПЛОМ  
ОКСАНА КАРПОВЕЦ  
СПЕЦІАЛЬНОГО  
ПЕДАГОГА  
ДЕФЕКТОЛОГА

ПОДЧКА  
ОКСАНА  
КАРПОВЕЦЬ  
ПІДСІЛНИКО  
ВОЛОНТЕР

ДИПЛОМ  
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СПЕЦІАЛЬНОГО  
ЕКОНОМІСТА

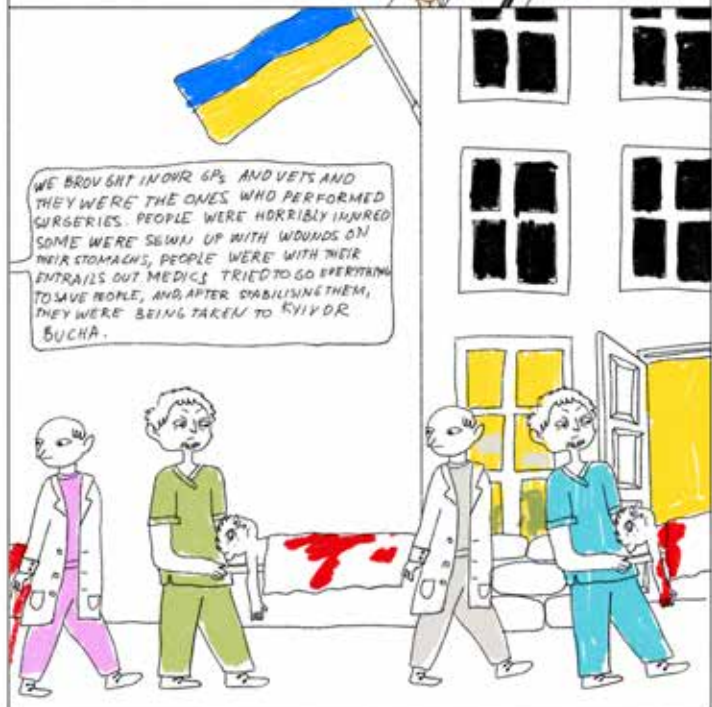
ОКСАНА КАРПОВЕЦЬ  
А ІНТЕРЕСНО  
КРИЖИМ  
БУДІВЕЛЬНИК



ON FEBRUARY 24, THE FIRST MESSAGE I READ WAS FROM GEORGE, A VOLUNTEER WHO USED TO WORK WITH US. HE WROTE THAT WE SHOULD HOLD ON AND THAT UKRAINE WOULD DEFINITELY WIN. I WAS SHOCKED. IT WAS VERY EARLY, BETWEEN 4 AND 5 AM. THE UNITED STATES ALREADY KNEW, AND WE WERE JUST WAKING UP.

PEOPLE DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND WHAT AWAITED THEM. EVERYONE WANTED TO RUN AND DO SOMETHING. WE STARTED DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION. THE MEN BEGAN TO ORGANISE A LOCAL TERRITORIAL DEFENCE FORCE, BUT THERE WAS NO TIME LEFT.









SINCE FEBRUARY 27, THE ELECTRICITY WAS TURNED OFF IN THE TOWN, AND ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 8 GAS WAS TURNED OFF AS WELL. PEOPLE WARMED UP AS BEST THEY COULD. SEVERAL PEOPLE SLEPT IN ONE BED. AT THIS TIME, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ORGANISE A «HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR» FOR EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS.





THERE WAS A MOMENT WHEN WE REALISED THAT THE STOCKS OF MEDICINES WERE DWINDLING AND WE ASKED PEOPLE TO TAKE HALF A PILL, ALTHOUGH IN SUCH SITUATIONS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE PEOPLE WITH HEART ISSUES, DIABETES, EPILEPSY WITHOUT MEDICINE.

THOSE WHO STAYED IN TOWN WORKED WITHOUT ANYONE TELLING THEM TO. SOMEONE CUT DEAD WOOD AND TOOK IT TO PEOPLE IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS FOR FIRE WOOD. OTHERS COLLECTED

IN THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE LIBERATION, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH FLOUR TO MAKE MELNYTSI. THE GUYS STARTED A GRAIN MILL - A GRAIN GRINDER FOR ANIMALS AND USING « FLOUR » FROM THERE, WE BAKED BREAD. IT WAS HEAVY WITH SAND, BUT IT WAS BREAD. WHEN, AFTER THE LIBERATION PEOPLE TOOK « BREAD » THEY WEPT.

INFORMATION ABOUT PEOPLE'S NEEDS. IN TOTAL, SEVERAL HELP HUBS WERE ORGANISED IN MEME SHAE VO.



THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH ABANDONED ANIMALS, WHICH HAD TO BE SOMEHOW SOLVED, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NEITHER COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD NOR EXTRA RESOURCES. EVERYONE IN TOWN HAD THEIR OWN SHARE OF WORK: BROUGHT FOOD, FED THE ANIMALS, DROPPED WHAT THEY COULD. AND IT WAS VERY MEANINGFUL.

NOW FOR OKSANA, THE PRIORITY IS RESTORATION OF DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE, HELPING THE POPULATION WITH FOOD AND SUPPORTING THE BATTLE FRONT. BECAUSE SHE HAS AMBITIOUS DREAMS AND PLANS.

AFTER THE LIBERATION, A NEW STAGE OF WORK BEGAN - TO REGISTER HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD STAYED, TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THEM. WE BEGAN TO ACTIVELY BRING IN HUMANITARIAN AID: FOOD, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, SEEDS, GENERATORS





OLEK SANDRA

ROMANTSOVA





THERE WERE COUNTRIES THAT WERE READY TO HEAR ABOUT HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS, TO INVEST IN HELPING PEOPLE, BUT WERE NOT READY TO HEAR THE FACT THAT WE NEED WEAPONS TO SURVIVE.

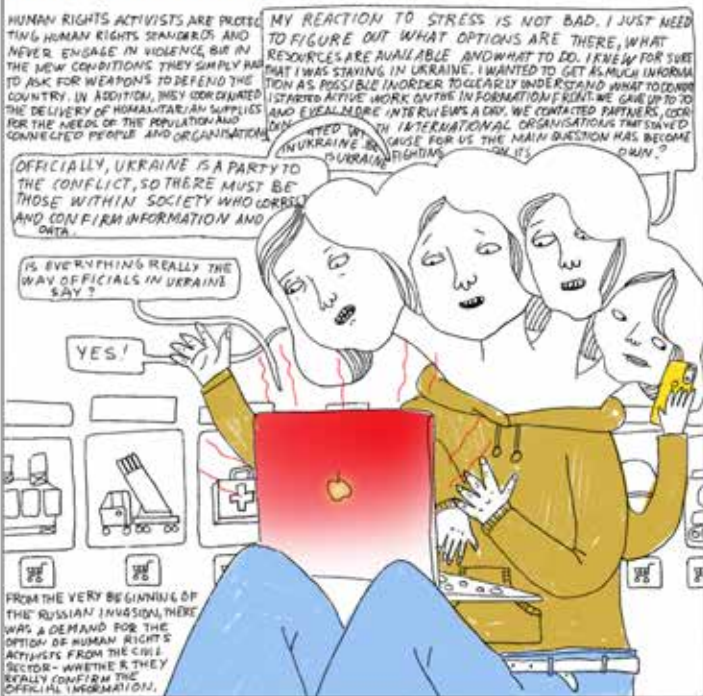
OLEKSANDRA ROMANTSOVA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (KYIV)



OLEKSANDRA DID NOT EXPECT WAR. IN FACT, BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, SHE HAD ASSEMBLED AND EXPANDED HER TEAM, WHICH HAD TO GO THROUGH A PROBATIONARY PERIOD AFTER THE HOSTILITIES HAD ALREADY BEGUN. SHE HAD PLANNED TRIPS WITH HER SISTER AND FRIENDS, BUT JUST IN CASE HAD PREPARED AN EMERGENCY BAG, AND THE WHOLE TEAM KNEW THE SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS FOR THE FIRST HOURS, IN CASE OF AN INVASION.

THE PLANNING HORIZON OF OUR ORGANISATION BEFORE THE START OF THE WAR WAS 6 YEARS AHEAD. WE PLANNED TO EXPAND FUNDING IN 2 YEARS, I WANTED TO TAKE A BREAK TO STUDY INTERNATIONAL LAW.





OLESKANDRA AND HER COLLEAGUES ARE DOCUMENTING WAR CRIMES



THE NUMBER OF WHICH HAS NOW INCREASED INTO THE THOUSANDS.

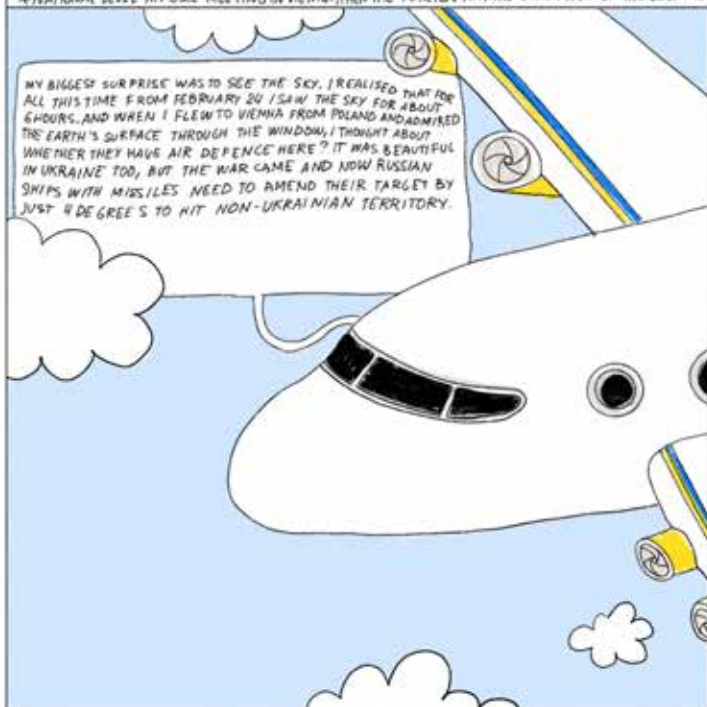
IT'S EMOTIONALLY DIFFICULT! FOR YOU DIG AND DIG AND DIG, AND YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN YOU WILL REACH THE WATER, FOR WHICH YOU STARTED DIGGING THIS WELL. THERE WERE COUNTRIES THAT WERE READY TO HEAR ABOUT HUMANITARIAN ISSUES BUT WERE NOT READY TO HEAR THE FACT THAT WE NEED WEAPONS TO SURVIVE.

OLEKSANDRA LEFT KYIV FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MAY FOR MEETINGS ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL - AN OSCE MEETING IN VIENNA, THEN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL



OF EUROPE IN TURIN, MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS COLLEAGUES IN 2 WEEKS SHE MANAGED TO TRAVEL OVER 20 CITIES.

MY BIGGEST SURPRISE WAS TO SEE THE SKY. I REALISED THAT FOR ALL THIS TIME FROM FEBRUARY 24 I SAW THE SKY FOR ABOUT 6 HOURS, AND WHEN I FLEW TO VIENNA FROM POLAND AND ADMIRING THE EARTH'S SURFACE THROUGH THE WINDOW, I THOUGHT ABOUT WHETHER THEY HAVE AIR DEFENCE HERE? IT WAS BEAUTIFUL IN UKRAINE TOO, BUT THE WAR CAME AND NOW RUSSIAN SHIPS WITH MISSILES NEED TO AMEND THEIR TARGET BY JUST 4 DEGREES TO HIT NON-UKRAINIAN TERRITORY.





EVERYTHING WE DO, PEOPLE ALREADY PERCEIVE AS THE NORM, PEOPLE FEEL THEIR RIGHTS ONLY WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO TAKE THEM AWAY. THEY DON'T SEE THEM AS A WIN OR A BONUS. FOR THEM, THIS IS THE NORM. THEREFORE, WE ARE ALREADY EMPHASIZING TO OUR GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE: LAY DOWN SUCH SOLUTIONS THAT LATER WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM AND A REASON FOR CONFLICT BETWEEN SECURITY AND EUROPEAN VALUES.

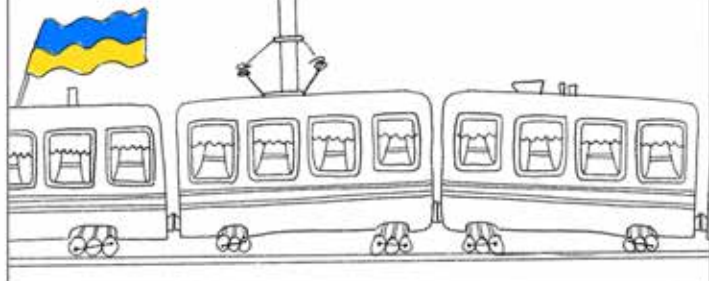
OLEKSANDRA AND HER COLLEAGUES ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY INTERACTION. THEY HELP TO FIND THE RIGHT VOLUNTEERS, UNITED PEOPLE, OR ORGANISATIONS AND STATES TO HELP UKRAINE, MEANWHILE NOT FORGETTING ABOUT THE MAIN THING - THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.



IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THERE TO BE A VICTORY TOMORROW, WE WANT MORE. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO HELP PRISONERS TO RETURN HOME, PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED TO RUSSIA TO RETURN TO EUROPE OR UKRAINE. WE WANT UKRAINE TO BE READY FOR JUSTICE. WE NEED TO BUILD A JUDICIARY STRUCTURE TO PROSECUTE FOR CRIMES IN RELATION TO THE WAR. UKRAINE IS A CHANCE FOR A TRIBUNAL OVER ALL AGGRESSIVE POLICIES, NOT ONLY AGAINST OUR COUNTRY, BUT ALSO AGAINST THE WORLD.

FOR OLEKSANDRA, THE CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IS THE MEANING OF LIFE. TOGETHER WITH HER COLLEAGUES, SHE MANAGED TO HELP 300 UKRAINIANS WHO, DUE TO THE WAR, HAD FOUND THEMSELVES IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIAN FAR EAST, TO LEAVE TO EUROPE. SHE PLANS AND IMPLEMENTS NEW HUMANITARIAN, INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS.

EUROPE \* VLADIVOSTOK

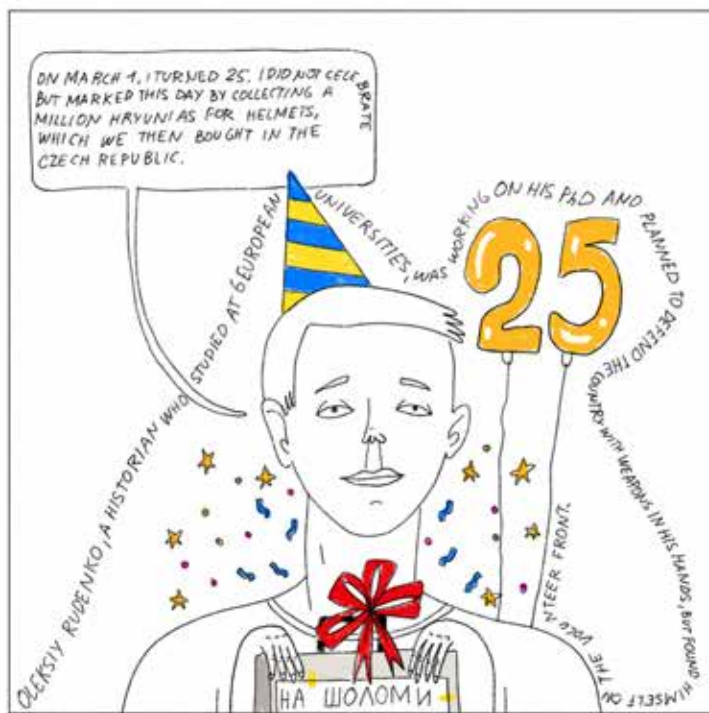


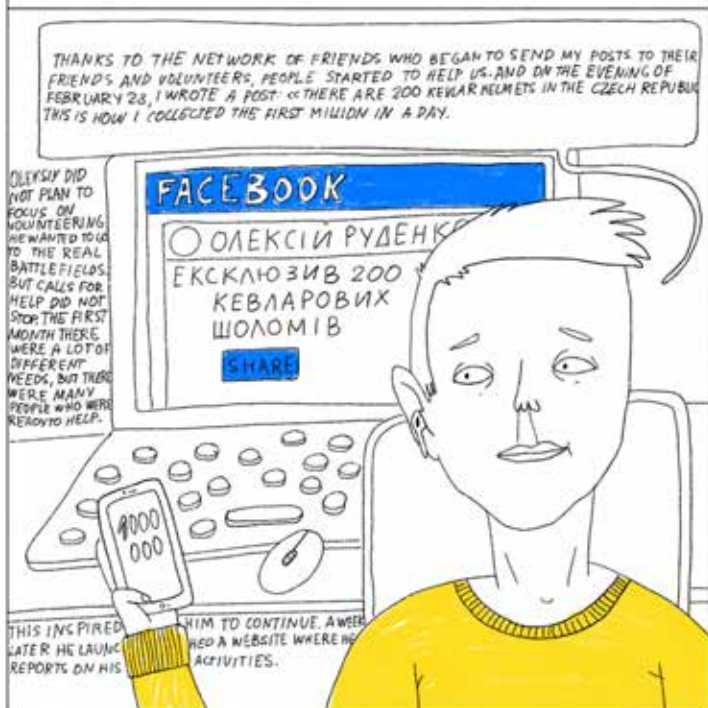
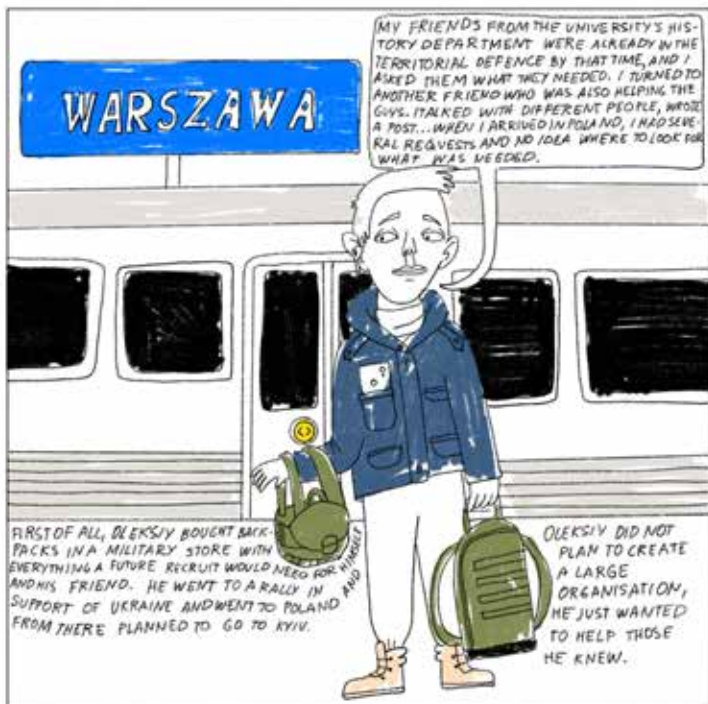


OLEKSIY  
RUDENKO









WE HAVE A GUY WHO HELPS US CARRY EVERYTHING FROM MILITARY STORES TO WARSAW, AND I REMEMBER HIS SHOCK WHEN WE CAME TO THE STORE TO BUY 80 HELMETS AND 200 PIECES OF BODY ARMOUR AND WE WERE 15 000 HRYVNIA SHORT. I'VE POSTED ON TELEGRAM, FACEBOOK, AND LITERALLY IN A FEW MINUTES THE NEEDED SUM WAS IN MY ACCOUNT. SUCH MOMENTS DID NOT LET YOU GIVE UP.

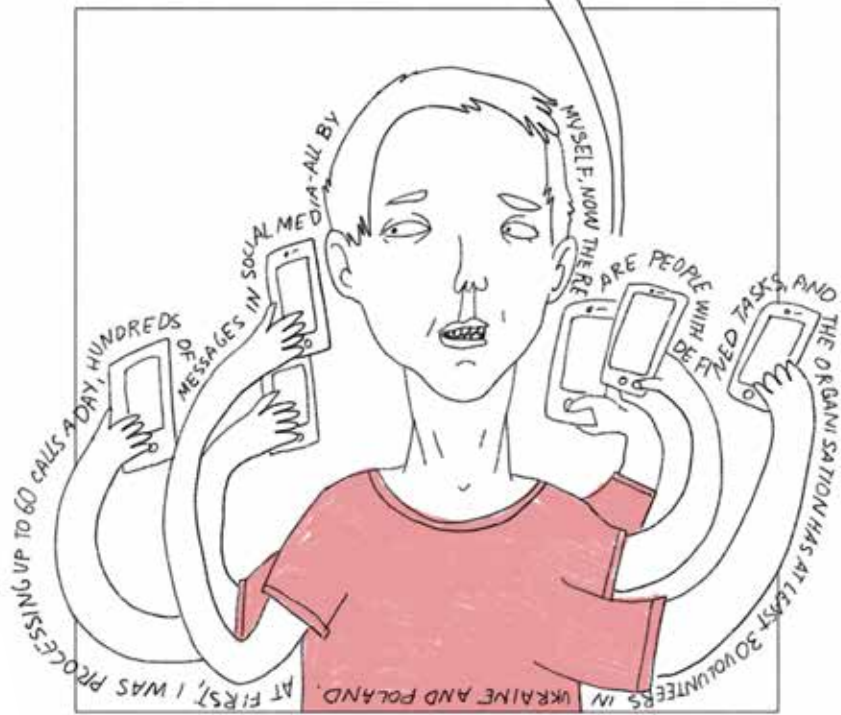
DURING THE WAR, OLEKSIY AND HIS FRIENDS TRANSPORTED MORE THAN 20 TRUCKS TO UKRAINE, WHICH IS ABOUT 40 TONS OF IMPORTANT CARGO - HUNDREDS OF HELMETS, WALKIE-TALKIE KNEE PADS, BODY ARMOUR, BINOCULARS, AMMUNITION AND CLOTHES. EVERYTHING THE SOLDIERS NEEDED.



WE MOSTLY DO NOT DEAL WITH FOOD, THIS IS NOT OUR SPECIALTY BUT WE HELP OTHERS WITH LOGISTICS AND DELIVERY. WE HELP IN FINDING WHAT THEY NEED IN POLAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ESTONIA, GERMANY, THE UK. WE DELIVER THE CARGO TO LVIW, WHERE OUR COLLEAGUES DEAL WITH THE FURTHER LOGISTICS.



I AM A PERSON WHO LIKES THINGS TO GO ACCORDING TO PLAN. DURING THIS TIME I BECAME MORE FLEXIBLE AND SHARP. ONCE AGAIN, I WAS CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE WHO CAN BE RELIED ON AND TRUSTED. I BECAME BOLDER IN DEMANDING, CALLING AGAIN, AND ASKING FOR HELP.





OLEKSIY STARTED A CHARITY AUCTION, IN WHICH FAMOUS UKRAINIAN STAMPS, FLAGS AND AUTOGRAPHED T-SHIRTS WERE SOLD FOR OLEKSIY, HIS LIFE PRIORITIES HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED. PREVIOUSLY, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN SOME CONFERENCE, BUT NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSFER THE DRONE OR POWER GENERATOR ON TIME. HE ALSO REALISED THAT PERSEVERANCE, HARD WORK AND A CERTAIN

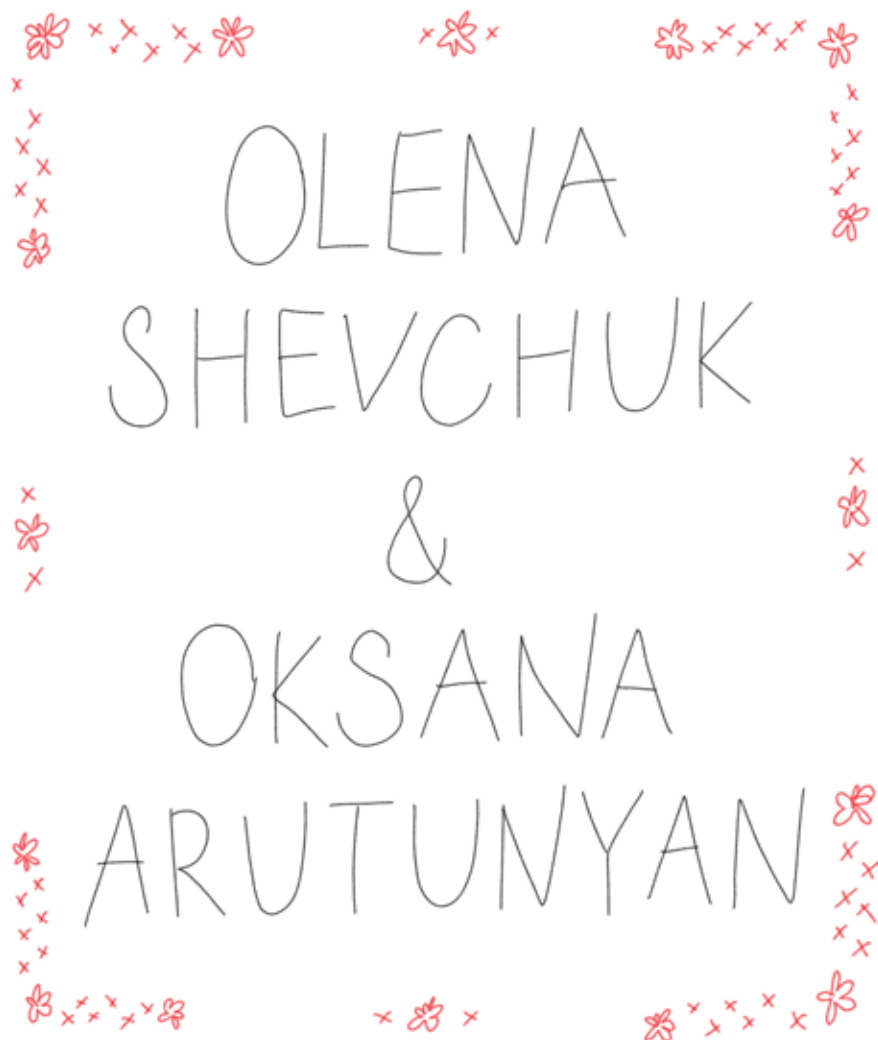
AMOUNT OF EMPATHY MAKE UP 99% OF SUCCESS.



## БЛАГОДІЙНИЙ АУКЦІОН



OLENA  
SHEVCHUK  
&  
OKSANA  
ARUTUNYAN





OLENA SHEVCHUK HAS BEEN LIVING IN ARMENIA FOR 10 YEARS, RAISING TWO CHILDREN AND DEVELOPING A STARTUP. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE UKRAINIANS COMMUNITY BECAUSE SHE WANTED HER SON TO KNOW UKRAINIAN.



AT FIRST, OLENA FOR A LONG TIME DID NOT WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THE WAR HAD BEGUN. SHE WANTED TO HEAR FROM SOMEONE THAT THE WAR HAD BEGUN, SHE WANTED TO HEAR FROM SOMEONE THAT THIS WAS A MISTAKE. BUT NO.



DUE TO THE TIME DIFFERENCE, I KNEW ABOUT THE START OF THE WAR BEFORE MY FAMILY IN ODESA. I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD MY MOM ABOUT IT, AND THEN I HEARD HER TEARS.

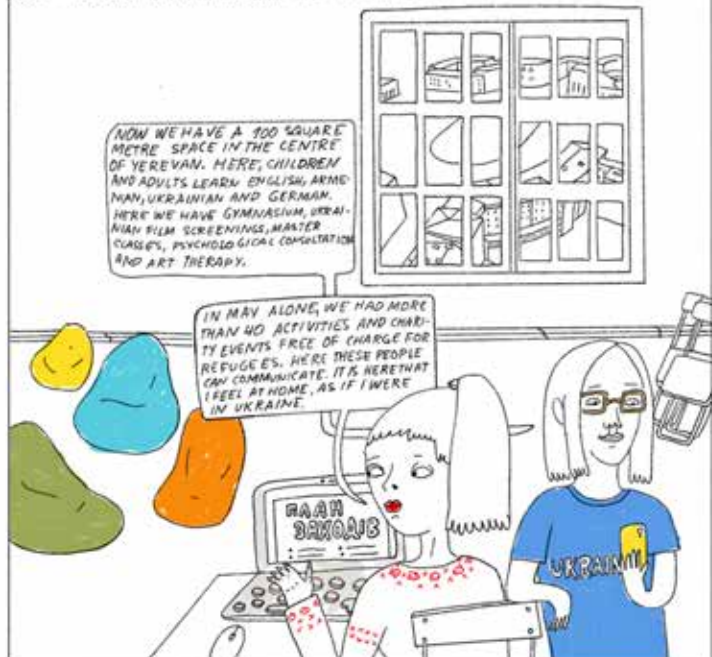




I'VE QUIT MY JOB AND FOCUSED ON VOLUNTEERING. I'VE SPENT WHOLE DAYS HELPING: CALLED SOMEONE, SEARCHED FOR ACCOMMODATION, ANSWERED VARIOUS QUESTIONS.

ALREADY IN EARLY MARCH, DIANA, OKSANA AND OTHER ACTIVISTS WERE COLLECTING HUMANITARIAN AID AT THE EMBASSY: CANNED FOOD, CEREALS, HYGIENE ITEMS, CLOTHES, SHOES.

TOGETHER, DIANA AND OKSANA CREATED AN NGO ORGANISATION WHERE THEY NOT ONLY SUPPORT UKRAINIANS, BUT ALSO POPULARISE UKRAINIAN CULTURE.



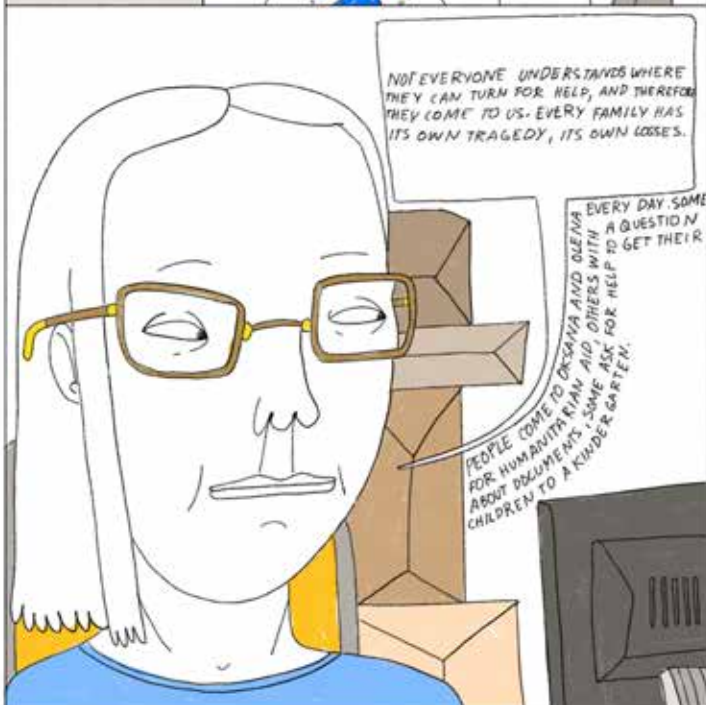
NOW WE HAVE A 300 SQUARE METRE SPACE IN THE CENTRE OF YEREVAN. HERE, CHILDREN AND ADULTS LEARN ENGLISH, ARMENIAN, UKRAINIAN AND GERMAN. HERE WE HAVE GYMNASIUM, UKRAINIAN FILM SCREENINGS, MASTER CLASSES, PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATION AND ART THERAPY.

IN MAY ALONE, WE HAD MORE THAN 40 ACTIVITIES AND CHARITY EVENTS FREE OF CHARGE FOR REFUGEES. HERE THESE PEOPLE CAN COMMUNICATE. IT IS HERE THAT I FEEL AT HOME, AS IF I WERE IN UKRAINE.



IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR OLENA TO DO SOMETHING IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE. THAT IS HOW SHE FEELS INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE VICTORY.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF I COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE, LOOK FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS, MEDICINE, CLOTHES, EVERYTHING THAT REFUGEES NEED WILL BRING VICTORY CLOSER. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I AM SAVING MYSELF SO AS NOT TO GO CRAZY FROM ALL THIS HORROR. WE ALSO HAVE A WAR HERE, ITS INVISIBLE FRONT.



NOT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS WHERE THEY CAN TURN FOR HELP, AND THEREFORE THEY COME TO US. EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS OWN TRAGEDY, ITS OWN LOSSES.

PEOPLE COME TO UKRAINE AND OLENA FOR HUMANITARIAN AID OTHERS WITH ABOUT DOCUMENTS - SOME ASK FOR HELP TO GET THEIR CHILDREN TO A KINDERGARTEN. EVERY DAY SOME A QUESTION GET THEIR







PIA

SVANLUND





WHEN REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN SWEDEN, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SOME PEOPLE WITH HOUSING. OUR PARISH HAS 3 APARTMENTS AT ITS DISPOSAL. THE PRIEST OFFERED TO LEASE ONE OF THEM TO THE UKRAINIANS. WE WERE LOOKING FOR A LARGE, MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY WITH PETS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE HARDEST FOR THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE TO ACCOMMODATE IN COUNCIL HOUSING. WE HAD ALREADY EXPERIENCED WAVES OF IMMIGRATION FROM AFGHANISTAN AND SOMALIA, BUT THESE PEOPLE DID NOT BRING PETS. SWEDEN WAS NOT READY FOR REFUGEES WITH PETS: THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY REFUGEE CAMPS AND HOSTELS. OUR GOAL WAS TO HELP AT LEAST ONE FAMILY NOT TO STRAY WITH EACH OTHER AND THEIR PETS.



AT FIRST, PIA POSTED AN OFFER ON SOCIAL MEDIA, BUT DESPITE THE GREAT RESPONSE FROM THE REFUGEES AND THEIR ACQUAINTANCES, SHE HAD TO REFUSE THEM FOR VARIOUS REASONS. ONCE PIA WAS APPROACHED BY VIKA, A UKRAINIAN WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN SWEDEN FOR A LONG TIME. SHE TOLD HER ABOUT HER FRIENDS FROM MARIUPOL WHO DIDN'T KNOW WERE TO GO. IT WAS A FAMILY OF 4 GENERATIONS - 8 PEOPLE, 6 CATS AND 6 DOGS. THEY WERE ALREADY IN GERMANY, BUT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO SETTLE DOWN SO AS NOT TO PART WITH EACH OTHER.



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE WAS TO HELP THEM GET TO SWEDEN

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL ARRANGE EVERYTHING! I KNOW MANY GREAT WOMEN ALL OVER EUROPE, WE WILL ARRANGE EVERYTHING.

THIS WAS THE ANSWER TO ALL MY PRAYERS. I CAN GIVE ONE THING, NATASHA ANOTHER, AND TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED.

NATASHA, AN EMIGREE FROM RUSSIA, WHOM PIA KNEW FROM HER PARISH, CAME TO THE RESCUE.



НИМЕЧЧИНА

ШВЕЦИЯ

NATASHA TOOK THE ORGANISATION OF THE WHOLE FAMILY'S RELOCATION UPON HERSELF: TOGETHER WITH HER FRIENDS, SHE DESIGNED A PLAN THAT INCLUDED 4 TYPES OF TRANSPORT AND 5 TRANSFERS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE FAMILY.

MEANWHILE, PIA WAS PREPARING THE HOME FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE FAMILY.

WE EXPECTED TO HAVE 3 WEEKS TO PREPARE THE APARTMENT, BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT OUR GUESTS WOULD ARRIVE IN JUST A WEEK. I HAD TO WORK DAY AND NIGHT, I WORKED ABOUT 80 HOURS. MY HUSBAND ALSO HELPED ME. WE RENTED A VAN TO MOVE THE FURNITURE.

MORE THAN 20 FAMILIES CAME TO SHARE THEIR THINGS, THANKS TO A FACEBOOK POST, HELPERS WERE FOUND TO ASSEMBLE FURNITURE AND CLEAN UP. RESTAURANT OWNERS BROUGHT FOOD SO THAT THE FAMILY HAD SOMETHING TO EAT IN THE BEGINNING.

EVERYONE SAW THE PHOTOS AND HEARD THE NEWS FROM MARIUPOL AND WANTED TO HELP THIS FAMILY. OUR PARISH HAS A GOOD REPUTATION. PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE HAVE DONE A LOT OF THINGS AND WERE GLAD TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUEST FOR HELP. THOSE WHO DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES BELIEVERS

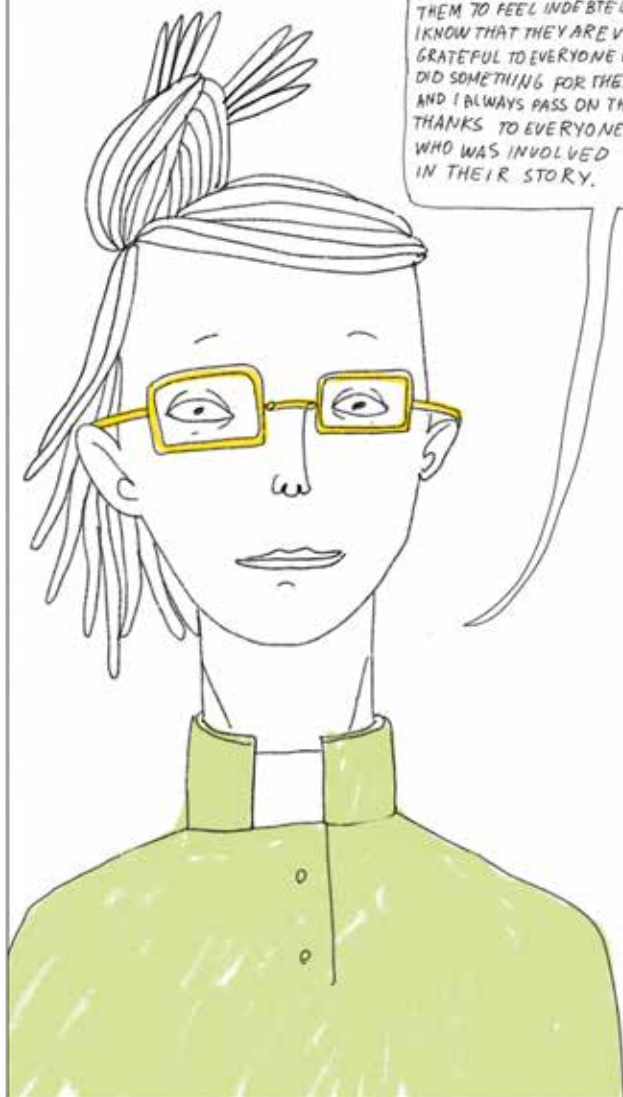


THERE ARE SEVERAL UKRAINIAN FAMILIES IN OUR PARISH NOW. SOME LIVE WITH PARISHIONERS, OTHERS IN THE DORMS OF THE MIGRATION SERVICE. ONCE A WEEK WE HOLD MEETINGS FOR THEM IN OUR CONGREGATION PREMISES. WOMEN FROM A MARIUPOL FAMILY ORGANISE THEM AND HELP TO SHARE INFORMATION IN UKRAINIAN. FOR THIS THEY RECEIVE A SALARY THEY ARE OFFICIALLY EMPLOYED BY THE CHURCH.

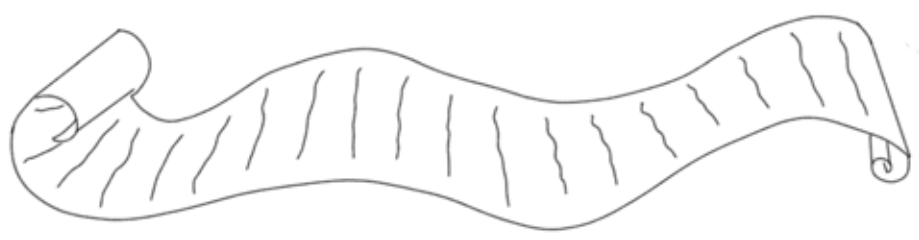


PIA PERSONALLY THANKED EVERYONE WHO HELPED  
THIS MARIUPOL FAMILY.

I DID IT ON THEIR BEHALF  
IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT  
FOR THEM TO SAY THANK  
YOU TO A HUGE NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE. I DON'T WANT THAT  
THEM TO FEEL INDEBTED, BUT  
I KNOW THAT THEY ARE VERY  
GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO  
DID SOMETHING FOR THEM,  
AND I ALWAYS PASS ON THEIR  
THANKS TO EVERYONE  
WHO WAS INVOLVED  
IN THEIR STORY.



RUSLAN  
TELIPSKYY







THE END OF FEBRUARY WAS A BUSY PERIOD FOR RUSLAN. A CHARITY CONCERT FOR THE FAMILIES OF FALLEN WARRIORS WAS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 25. FEBRUARY 26 WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BIG HOLIDAY FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY. RUSLAN HIMSELF WAS ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, BUT THE WAR CHANGED EVERYTHING.







BUT THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FROM THE FRONT LINE IS NOT DECREASING SO THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE CLEARLY DIVIDED THE RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THEMSELVES: SOME MAKE CAMOUFLAGE GILLIE SUITS, OTHERS COLLECT DRY RATIONS, TRANSPORT IT ALL, WORK IN A WAREHOUSE AND ALL THIS REQUIRES MONEY.

RUSLAN'S PLANS ARE TO ORGANISE LARGE FAIRS, TO ATTRACT CRAFTSMEN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A NEW DRONE FOR THE MILITARY, CARS, GENERATORS AND CLOTHES.



USUALLY WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE TRAGEDY, NOW EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. THEY THEMSELVES COME TO US. WE OFFER HELP, WE INVOLVE PSYCHOLOGISTS. DURING THE WAR, WE ORGANISED 2 CONVENTIONS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE «HEAVENLY LEGION». CHILDREN CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER, AND SO IT IS EASIER TO LIVE THROUGH THAT IRREPARABLE LOSS, WHICH ONLY THEY CAN UNDERSTAND.

## ЗАТСІМЕЙ «НЕБЕСНОГО ЛЕГІОНУ»

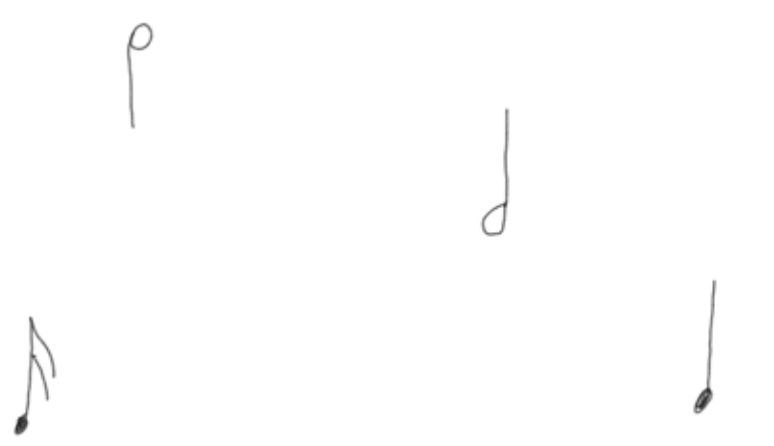


ALREADY NOW THERE ARE ABOUT 300 SUCH FAMILIES, AND I HAVE AN HONOURABLE MISSION TO HELP THEM, TO HELP RAISE THEIR CHILDREN. WE DO OUR BEST, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEXT DAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO MORE BECAUSE HUMAN RESOURCES ARE LIMITLESS AND YOU SHOULD NEVER SAY «NEVER».



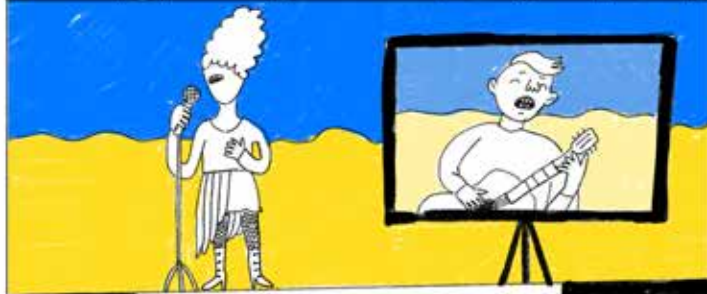


SVEINUNG  
NYGAARD



I WANTED TO LEARN SOME THINGS FROM PEOPLE WHO WENT THROUGH THE WAR. I WAS LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVED THAT ART CAN AND SHOULD CHANGE SOMETHING. I FOUND THEM, AND I WANTED THEIR ART TO BE SEEN IN EUROPE, BECAUSE IT IS PURE, DIRECT AND NEVER PARTICIPATED IN ANY VIOLENCE. A INITIATIVE'S REPORT - AND THEN CIVILITY. VOLUNTEERING FOR ME IS THE ABILITY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND CREATE NEW STORIES, NEW STORIES ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING. THIS TRIP BECAME VERY IMPORTANT FOR UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF ART.

SVEINUNG NYGAARD IS A NORWEGIAN COMPOSER. HE VISITED UKRAINE SEVERAL TIMES TO RE-THINK THE HISTORY OF THE VIKINGS AND THEIR CAMPAIGNS NOT ONLY TO THE NORTH, BUT ALSO TO THE EAST OF EUROPE.



# TRACKS

AFTER THE START OF THE INVASION, SVEINUNG THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TO LET HIS FRIENDS FROM UKRAINE SPEAK IN THE FIRST PERSON. THE RESULT IS A MOBILE MICRO-FESTIVAL TRACKS, THE MAIN INSPIRATION OF WHICH IS TRAIN TRAVEL. ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, MUSICIANS AND POETS FROM UKRAINE AND SCANDINAVIA TOOK PART IN THE PILOT FESTIVAL AT THE RAILWAY STATION OF GÖTTINGEN.

PARTICIPANTS WORK IN PAIRS: SOME OFFLINE AND OTHERS ONLINE. SVEINUNG OVERSEES THEIR WORK AND CREATES VENUES FOR PERFORMANCES.

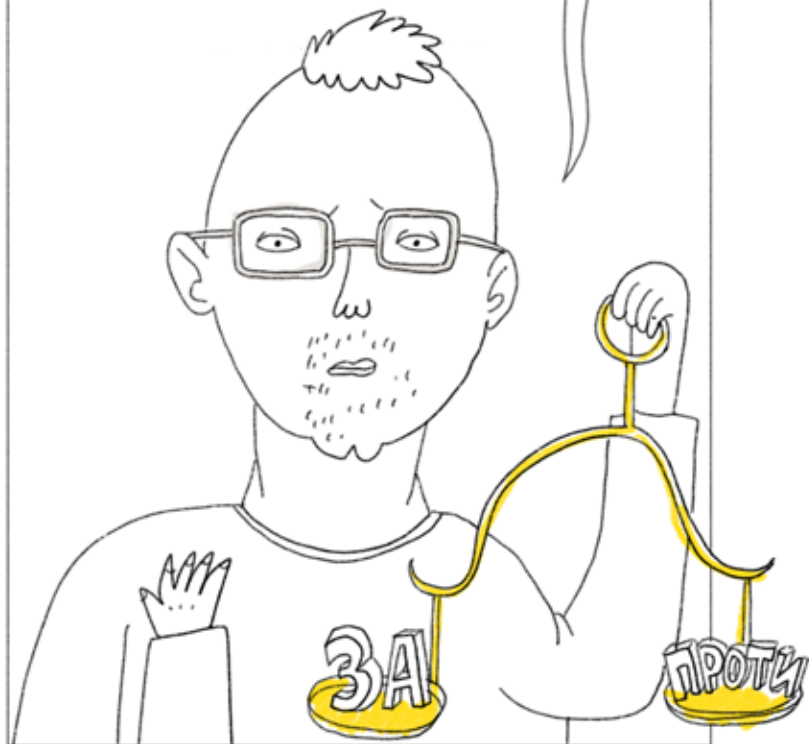


WHEN DIVIDING PEOPLE IN PAIRS, I WANTED TO MIX THOSE WORKING IN DIFFERENT GENRES, MIX THEM BEFORE SOME WERE IN UKRAINE, THE REST IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE COULD HELP WITH THE EVACUATIONS, BUT WE COULD CREATE A PLATFORM THAT YOU CAN JOIN FROM SWEDEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THE MAIN ACTS OF THE FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE AT THE RAILWAY STATION AND IN THE TRAINS. THE RAILWAY IS A SPACE OF TRANSITION, STATIC AND MOBILE AT THE SAME TIME. THE PARALLELISM OF THE RAILS IS ALSO IMPORTANT - THE ARTISTS WORK IN PAIRS IN THE SAME DIRECTION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY



OF COURSE, PEOPLE NEED A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS AND FOOD, BUT THE EVENTS IN UKRAINE SHOW US THAT HISTORY AND NARRATIVE ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT FOR MOTIVATION AS WEAPONS. PRESIDENT ZELENKY UNDERSTAND THIS VERY WELL. OUR ENEMY IS FEAR AND LETHARGY. WE FIGHT MAINLY «FOR» SOMETHING: FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, THAN «AGAINST» THE ENEMY. I BELIEVE THAT ART CAN BECOME A GREAT POWER AND WEAPON IF IT IS SINCERE AND BRINGS HOPE. IN THE NEWS, EVERYTHING COMES DOWN TO PUTIN AND ZELENKY, ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE IS MUCH BROADER - IT IS ABOUT WHAT HUMANITY IS.

SVEINUNG IS CONVINCED THAT COLLABORATIONS IN ART ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF DEMOCRACY AND PEACE-BUILDING. THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE PROJECT IS THE DIALOGUES OF THE ARTISTS AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH THE AUDIENCE. SOME OF THEM CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FURTHER.









The CivilMPlus platform is an association of public organizations and experts from different countries and with different views that supports the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

The actions and positions of the platform participants are based on the values of freedom and democracy, which Ukrainians are defending today. The international independent civil society platform CivilMPlus was established in 2017 through the efforts of civil activists from different countries. It includes organizations and experts from Ukraine, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, France and other European countries.