

*Marie YOVANOVITCH,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America to Ukraine*

U.S.–UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP

The United States is committed to the success of stable, prosperous, democratic, and free Ukraine, and I am proud to lead the team at the U.S. Embassy in supporting our Ukrainian partners.

Ukraine has taken a number of impressive steps since the Revolution of Dignity to achieve judicial, defense, and economic reform. The United States welcomes Ukraine's Law on National Security and the Anti-Corruption Court legislation, as well as the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office. We also applaud Ukraine's efforts to restore economic stability and growth, clean up the banking sector, narrow the scope for corruption in VAT administration and procurement, revamp state enterprise management in the energy sector, reform the traffic police, and provide cities and localities with more resources and authority to improve the lives of their residents.

The United States has worked closely with our Ukrainian partners on many of these initiatives; since 2014, we have provided more than \$2 billion in security and non-security assistance funds to Ukraine, which helped to launch initiatives including the Patrol Police, NABU, and SAPO. We also maintain robust cultural ties between our two nations through academic and professional exchange programs and other initiatives.

Despite the progress that has been made, much work remains to ensure Ukraine's sacrifices on the Maidan and in Donbas are not in vain. Civil society must be empowered, as the reforms since the Revolution of Dignity would not have been possible without its devotion to a better future for Ukraine. While the criticism of civil society can be uncomfortable for any government, the Ukrainian government understands that a strong civil society is imperative to improving any country and that the freedom to criticize is what sets Ukraine apart from repressive countries like Russia. Corruption remains a pressing problem – in fact, it is the most significant obstacle to Ukraine achieving its Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Ukraine's nascent anticorruption institutions are under threat. We look to the Ukrainian government to keep its promise to the people of Ukraine to follow through on the reforms that they have demanded. We also encourage Ukraine to take steps to break up its oligarchic system, in which a few individuals hold immense economic power that can be used to distort the political and economic systems.



*Марі Йованович відзначила четверту річницю Революції Гідності
Marie Yovanovitch marked the fourth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity*

The United States continues to support Ukraine's reforms and also stands firmly with Ukraine in countering Russian aggression. From the beginning of the crisis, the United States and its European partners have been united in defense of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Secretary Pompeo's July 25, 2018 Crimea Declaration made a clear and unequivocal statement of U.S. policy: we do not, and will not, recognize Russia's purported annexation of Crimea.

Our Minsk-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia fully implements the Minsk agreements and withdraws from Donbas. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control of the Crimean peninsula to Ukraine. There can be no return to "business as usual" with Russia until these critical issues are resolved. We will remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.