



# ACTIVITY REPORT

## THE RAPHAEL LEMKIN SOCIETY

### 2024–2025



Raphael Lemkin. Photo from the Estate of Arthur Leipzig archive



*Physical and biological genocide are always preceded by cultural genocide or by an attack on the symbols of the group or by violent interference with religious or cultural activities. In order to deal effectively with the crime of Genocide one must intervene at the very inception of the crime.<sup>1</sup>*

***Raphael Lemkin,***  
*Lawyer, scholar of genocide, and one of the founders of modern international criminal law*

<sup>1</sup> Lemkin, R. (1948) Memorandum on the Genocide Convention, Raphael Lemkin Papers, American Jewish Historical Society (AHJS), p. 154, Box 6, Folder 5, as cited in Moses, A.D., 2010, Raphael Lemkin, Culture, and the Concept of Genocide, in Bloxham, D. and Moses, A.D. (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies, Oxford University Press. Available at: [https://www.dirkmoses.com/uploads/7/3/8/2/7382125/moses\\_lemkin\\_culture.pdf](https://www.dirkmoses.com/uploads/7/3/8/2/7382125/moses_lemkin_culture.pdf)

# ABOUT US

**The Raphael Lemkin Society** is a non-governmental organization that brings together lawyers, researchers, cultural leaders, and human rights advocates to work toward preventing and punishing the crime of genocide.

Our work is grounded in the ideas of **Raphael Lemkin**, a lawyer whose efforts laid the foundation for modern international law. He coined the term “genocide” and was one of the authors of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948).

**Our mission** is to prevent crimes against cultures as a component of genocide and other international crimes.

The Society was established in 2024. As of the end of 2025, the Society’s team includes lawyers, research analysts, communications specialists, a project manager, a grants manager, and a designer.

Learn more about the Society and our work on our website: [lemkin.org.ua/en](https://lemkin.org.ua/en)

# MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Raphael Lemkin Society was founded by a group of like-minded professionals with interdisciplinary expertise in law, cultural heritage protection, art history, and communication. The Society was established to advance the understanding that attacks on culture are not incidental, but deliberate acts with a genocidal character, and to contribute to the prevention of genocide in the future.

What may appear to be isolated attacks on cultural heritage sites should instead be understood, as the Raphael Lemkin Society and its partner organizations argue, within the broader context of Russia's national policy aimed at destroying Ukrainian agency and identity.

The Society calls for a broader understanding of genocide, one that goes beyond its perception solely as physical destruction and recognizes the significance of attacks against cultural heritage. Such attacks constitute a complex crime that may be committed with genocidal intent, consistent with the way Raphael Lemkin understood genocide when he formulated the concept.



Anastasiia Oleksii, Executive Director of the Raphael Lemkin Society

Founded in early 2024, the Society has completed its institutional development phase and, in 2025, is supported by a small but capable executive team, which I have led since February 2025. My primary objective is to ensure the team's continuous and effective work toward the Society's institutional goals, to strengthen our expertise and influence in shaping public and professional understanding of the crime of genocide, and to demonstrate why culture is central to both national and global security.

With a background in art history and cultural management, I joined the Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo) in 2022. HeMo is a co-founder of the Society and has worked to document and analyze attacks on cultural heritage sites. Through this work, it became clear that these attacks are not isolated incidents. Rather, they form identifiable patterns that can be studied and, most importantly, used as part of the pursuit of justice through legal mechanisms. As a result, the initial motivation to document and analyze cases of cultural heritage destruction evolved into a commitment to make this work relevant and usable for national and international courts. This commitment is reflected in one of the Raphael Lemkin Society's core activities.

The Society is already engaged in case development and the preparation of analytical materials, primarily for national investigative authorities. By the end of 2026, the research team expects to present the results of this work.

As we enter 2026, on behalf of the Board and the executive team, I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone defending Ukraine in the Armed Forces, as well as to all those who helped lay the foundation for the Raphael Lemkin Society's work; generously shared their expertise, professional networks, methodologies, and approaches; and provided financial support. Thanks to this comprehensive support, we are able to plan our activities in the interests of Ukrainian society and in pursuit of justice for Ukraine and the world.

Sincerely,  
Anastasiia Oleksii

# CORE ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY BUILDING

REPRESENTING THOSE AFFECTED

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

## Advocacy and communication:

- Advocating for a systematic approach to examining individual episodes of crimes against culture as part of genocidal practice.
- Promoting amendments to Ukrainian legislation and international law.
- Supporting the commemoration of Raphael Lemkin and the dissemination of his scholarly legacy in Ukrainian and international contexts.
- Ensuring public visibility of the Raphael Lemkin Society's work and expertise.
- Engaging target audiences and developing advocacy pathways in Ukraine and internationally.

” *Achieving justice for Ukraine is essential. Justice, understood as a legal category, is the most important prerequisite for future development. Without it, no postwar peace can be sustainable. Under criminal law doctrine, one of the key purposes of punishment is to prevent future crimes. This means that perpetrators must be held accountable for the specific crimes they have committed. Therefore, if we seek to end this three-hundred-year war and prevent, or at least make it as difficult as possible, for Russia to launch future attacks, the entire senior military and political leadership of the Russian Federation must be held accountable for the crime of genocide.*

**Vitalii Tytych,**

*Chair of the Board of the Raphael Lemkin Society*

” *For our team, strategic communication is a tool for explaining crimes against Ukrainian culture as part of genocidal practice and advocating for holding Russia accountable for these actions. A distinct focus of our communication work is to highlight Raphael Lemkin's connection to Ukraine, including his studies in Lviv, his work in Berezhany, and his cooperation with the Ukrainian diaspora in New York, as well as to promote his scholarly legacy in Ukraine.*

**Viktoriia Savchuk Kennet,**

*Digital Communication Manager of the Raphael Lemkin Society*

## Representing affected parties<sup>2</sup>:

- Representing the interests of individuals and institutions affected by Russian military aggression in criminal proceedings at the national and international levels.
- Providing legal, expert, and communication support to affected parties.
- Facilitating cooperation and coordination among institutions in the pursuit of justice.

“ We understand justice in broad terms. It is not only a verdict, but also recognition, truth, and memory. Realizing these principles is what makes it possible to build a peaceful and secure future, protect the present, and meaningfully reckon with the past. Affected parties have the right to know what happened and to see that it is recognized by both the state and the international community. Through active and close cooperation with affected parties, representation of their interests in national and international forums, and the provision of legal, communication, and advocacy support, we seek to ensure that commitments to justice are backed by concrete action and tangible results, and that the future is built on acknowledgment of the past rather than its erasure.

**Daryna Pidhorna,**  
*Legal Expert and Analyst at the Raphael Lemkin Society*

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<sup>2</sup> The term “affected parties” should be understood to include not only institutions and professionals directly affected by attacks, but also Ukrainian citizens who have lost access to cultural products or heritage. This approach allows the organization to define the scope of its work broadly and to bring together different areas of activity in the interests of affected parties. At the same time, affected parties are viewed not only as recipients of support, but also as active participants in the process who possess expertise in culture and heritage protection that is valuable to investigations.

## Community building:

- Building partnerships with academic communities in Ukraine and internationally, maintaining communication with international partners.
- Engaging representatives of human rights organizations, cultural heritage protection organizations, and donor institutions<sup>3</sup>.

“ Holding Russia accountable for genocide is possible only if there is strong public demand for justice in Ukraine. To amplify Ukraine's position, we bring together committed Ukrainian leaders, including legal professionals and cultural actors, representatives of state institutions, lawmakers, human rights defenders, media professionals, and journalists, who directly shape this demand. We unite them around the idea of holding Russia accountable for genocide and around the ideas of Raphael Lemkin.

**Svitlana Myronchuk,**  
*Communication Manager at the Raphael Lemkin Society*

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<sup>3</sup> We view cooperation with donor organizations not only as a means of mobilizing resources, but also as a way to build community.

## Research and analysis:

- Researching episodes of attacks on cultural heritage sites, incidents of looting, and attacks against individuals.
- Developing and disseminating methodologies for the legal qualification of crimes against culture.
- Preparing analytical reports and research publications for open access.

“Documentation, research, and analytical work are at the core of the process of holding Russia accountable for crimes against Ukrainian culture. We transform testimonies, facts, and documents into an evidence base that can be used in legal, diplomatic, and advocacy processes. Our research demonstrates that the destruction of culture is a deliberate genocidal practice, not merely collateral damage of war. We develop methodologies for analyzing crimes against cultural heritage and focus our efforts on building a foundation for effective advocacy around the facts of Russia’s crimes at the national level and on the international stage.

**Mariia Zadorozhna,**  
Board Member of the Raphael Lemkin Society; Head of Research and Documentation of  
Russia’s Crimes Against Ukrainian Culture

# TWO YEARS IN NUMBERS

**5**

board members

**8**

executive team members

**42**

documented cases of cultural heritage destruction

**47**

publications in Ukrainian and international media

**12**

public events

**1**

updated website, launched in September 2025

## Social Media in 2025<sup>4</sup>:

FACEBOOK: **102 600** views

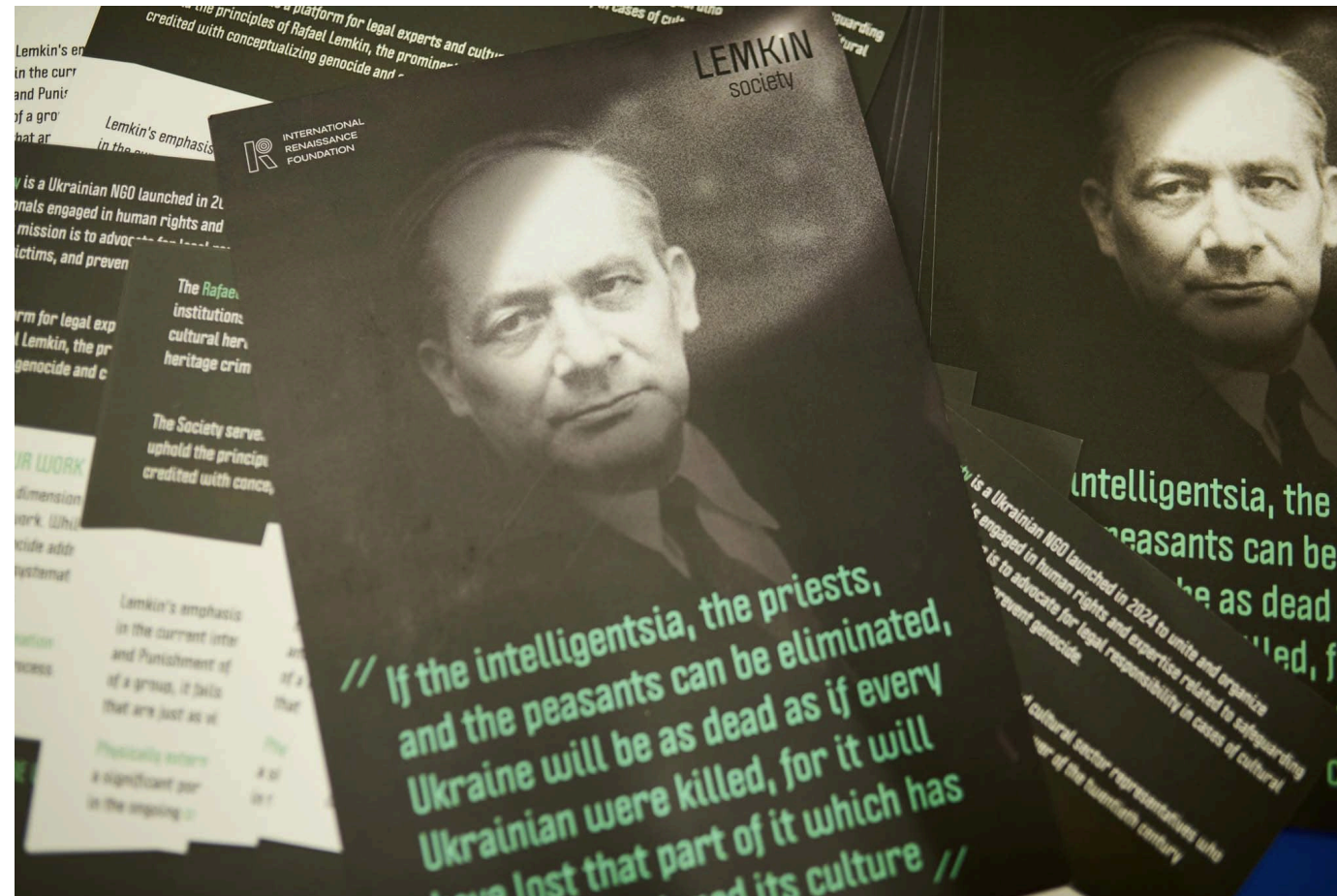
INSTAGRAM: **46 936** views

LINKEDIN: **31 217** impressions

<sup>4</sup> The Society's Facebook and Instagram pages were created in June 2024; therefore, it would be inaccurate to compare metrics from six months of 2024 with the full year of 2025. In addition, Meta introduced a new analytics format at the end of 2024. The LinkedIn page was launched on June 18, 2025.

# PROJECTS

## SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE



Brochure of the Raphael Lemkin Society

**Funding:** International Renaissance Foundation

**Implementation Period:** July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

**Total Project Budget:** UAH 1,930,390.00

The project was designed to support the effective investigation of crimes against cultural heritage, protect the interests of affected parties, including museums and museum institutions, and activate international legal mechanisms for accountability by preparing submissions to international courts.

As part of the project, the Society's team developed the Methodology for the Analysis and Criminal Legal Qualification of Attacks on Cultural Objects. The Methodology provides a framework for analyzing documented attacks on cultural property, structuring episodes of military attacks, and establishing the elements of the most serious crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. This is the first document of its kind to reflect the realities and experience of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as well as international experience in documenting attacks on cultural property. It is grounded in national legal doctrine and international criminal law. The methodological approaches proposed by the Society may be used by law enforcement agencies investigating attacks on cultural property, as well as by nongovernmental organizations, initiatives, and associations involved in documenting attacks on cultural objects.

Based on the Methodology, the project team analyzed attacks on cultural property. The analysis focused on data concerning losses and destruction of cultural heritage sites and cultural property documented by the Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo) and obtained from its database. Using the Methodology for analyzing documentation data, the team developed an analytical form with an annex. In total, 42 cases of cultural heritage destruction were processed.

The Society entered into cooperation agreements with four museums to provide legal protection: the Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Arts, the Kharkiv Literary Museum, the Odesa National Art Museum, and the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore.



Yuliia Vahanova, Director of the Khanenko Museum, left, and Halyna Chyzhyk, Executive Director of the Raphael Lemkin Society from April 2024 to February 2025, right



Vitalii Tytych, right, Chair of the Board of the Raphael Lemkin Society, during Bouquet Kyiv Stage 2024

The Raphael Lemkin Society also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Ukrainian Museums, which brings together, among others, museums in eastern Ukraine affected by the Russian Federation's armed aggression. Collaboration with the Association will serve as a platform for building relationships with these museums and providing them with legal protection in the future. To help protect the rights of affected cultural institutions and cultural actors, the Society partnered with the Coalition of Culture Actors. As part of the project, the Society also established effective cooperation with PEN Ukraine and provided cultural and legal consultations to the team at The Kyiv Independent during its work on the film Curated Theft, in which journalists investigated those involved in the looting of museums in Kherson.

The Society served as the conceptual initiator and co-organizer of the public discussion "Cultural Genocide: From Crime to Accountability," which took place on August 16, 2024, as part of the Bouquet Kyiv Stage festival. The discussion continued in November 2024 with the event "Russia's Genocidal Practices in Ukraine: From the Holodomor to the Russian-Ukrainian War," organized by the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

On December 9, 2024, the Raphael Lemkin Society, in cooperation with the National Art Museum of Ukraine, held a reception to mark the 76th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This was the Society's first public event, where it presented the organization, its objectives, and its mission. The reception was attended by members of parliament, representatives of government and law enforcement agencies, museum and civil society representatives, diplomats, foreign experts, and Ukrainian and international journalists. As part of the event, the Society also held a moderated discussion titled "How to Hold the Russian Federation Accountable for Genocide."

The Society established cooperation with the Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine. Its lawyers worked with Sharandjit Parmar, the Fund's Transitional Justice Adviser, to develop a strategy for holding the Russian Federation accountable at the international level. The Society also collaborated with experts from the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group to strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and mobilize international expertise on accountability for genocide on cultural grounds. The active phase of this cooperation has now been completed.

Thanks to the Society's advocacy efforts, publications about Russian attacks on Ukrainian culture and their genocidal nature appeared in media outlets in Argentina, Brazil, Italy, France, and Chile. These efforts also allowed the Society to initiate a broader discussion on the importance of Raphael Lemkin's ideas and the need to examine attacks on culture through the lens of the crime of genocide.



Expert discussion at the National Art Museum of Ukraine

# **SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PROVIDING LEGAL SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Funding:** Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Implementation Period:** November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025

**Partners:** Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA NGO); Mariupol Museum of Local Lore; Ukrainian Museum Association; Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo)

**Total Project Budget:** EUR 79,270.00

This project was developed in response to the urgent need for legal protection, advocacy, and digital preservation of Ukraine's cultural heritage. It offers a comprehensive approach to protecting the country's cultural heritage amid the ongoing war.

As part of the project, the Society established the Legal Defense Fund for Culture, through which it provides free legal assistance to museums, including:

- legal consultations on issues arising in the course of museum operations;
- representation of the interests of institutions and museum staff as affected parties and witnesses in criminal proceedings in Ukraine and before international institutions;
- expert assessments of losses related to the aggression;
- participation in the development of solutions for preserving collections, including documenting losses, developing emergency response plans for the rescue of collections, cataloguing collections, and digitizing catalogues and collections.

The establishment of the Legal Defense Fund for Culture enabled the Raphael Lemkin Society to provide systematic support to affected cultural institutions, clarify the rights of affected parties, and engage new partners.

Legal consultations were provided to the Odesa National Art Museum, the Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Arts, the Kharkiv Literary Museum, and the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore. In addition, as part of its cooperation with the Association of Ukrainian Museums, the Society held an online meeting with 30 museum professionals from at-risk territories and presented its work on providing legal support to affected museums and cultural institutions.

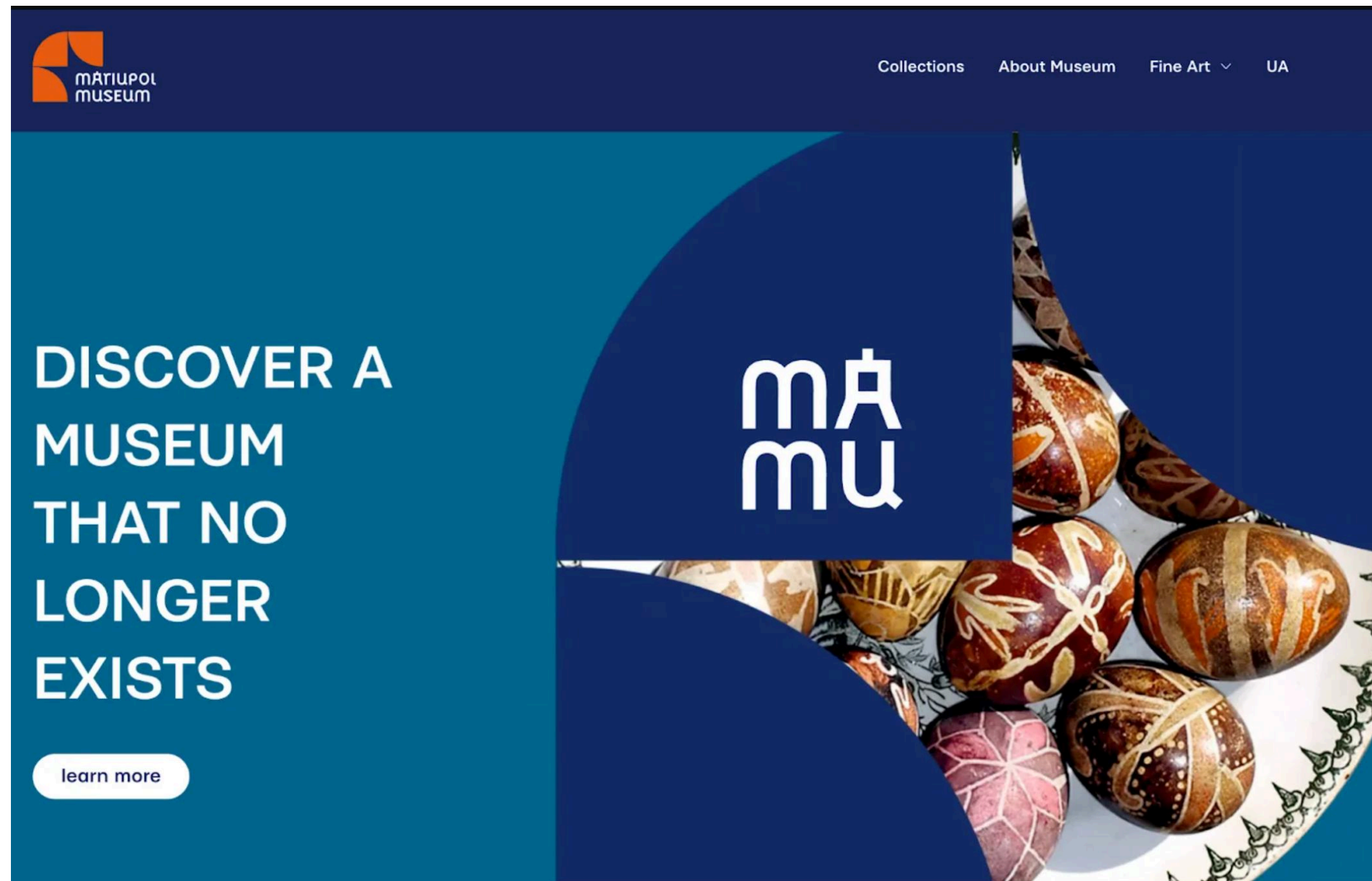
“ *When the full-scale war began, the museum—like the entire city—was destroyed. All of our collections were either taken by the occupiers or destroyed, and the fate of many objects remains unknown. But most importantly, we preserved our people. They are the ones who will continue to safeguard the memory and identity of this city by the sea. The digital catalog is our core documentary record. We have documented that all of this belonged to us. And when the aggressor state claims that these works are its property, we will be able to prove that this is not true.*

***Mariia Slota,***

*Director of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore, during the presentation of the museum's digital catalogue of its lost collection*



Odesa National Art Museum after the Russian attack in 2023



Homepage of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore's digital catalogue

The Raphael Lemkin Society, the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore, the Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo), and the NGO Museum of Contemporary Art worked together to create a digital catalogue of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore's collection.

Together with its partners, the team developed a platform to host information on 10,000 artifacts, including paintings, graphic works, sculpture, decorative and applied arts, phaleristics, and archaeology. During the project, the team collected and systematized information on 1,743 collection items, including paintings and graphic works, and prepared descriptions in Ukrainian and English.

The digital preservation of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore's lost collection plays a critical role in documenting and protecting the museum's artifacts. It ensures public access to the museum's collection and supports future efforts to identify and return stolen artifacts.

The Society continued its cooperation with the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore after the project ended, making it a distinct area of its work. On December 11, 2025, the Society and its partners presented the online catalogue to a Ukrainian audience. A presentation for an international audience is planned for April 2026.

Another component of the project involved drafting the practical guide “Protection of Cultural Heritage: Civil–Military Cooperation” and developing the curriculum for an educational course on the protection of cultural property during armed conflict for service members and students of military higher education institutions. Work on this component of the project is ongoing.

” *Protecting cultural heritage is a key element of Ukraine’s national security and must be incorporated into the country’s domestic and foreign policy, as well as its defense strategy.*

**Anastasiia Oleksii,**  
*Executive Director of the Raphael Lemkin Society, in an opinion piece for LB.ua*

At the same time, the Raphael Lemkin Society worked to advance the idea of creating cultural property protection units within the Ukrainian Armed Forces and to raise awareness of cultural property protection in wartime. This work included developing advocacy materials and conducting a communication campaign to draw the attention of government officials, service members, and the broader public.

## **CULTURAL FREEDOM: LAUNCHING UKRAINIAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION INITIATIVES**

**Funding:** Penn Cultural Heritage Center

**Implementation Period:** September 30, 2024 to September 30, 2026

**Partners:** Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo); Litera Union NGO; Platform for Urban Development NGO; Tustan NGO; Cultural institution Mizhvukhamy

**Total Project Budget:** 31,850.00 USD

The project was designed to support the resilience of independent Ukrainian cultural organizations and strengthen their ability to counter Russian disinformation, propaganda, and targeted attacks on cultural heritage.

The Society's work focused on bringing partner organizations and lawyers together to build a community of affected cultural institutions and cultural workers and protect their interests as victims of Russian military aggression. The project also included the Society's participation in meetings and trainings organized by the University of Pennsylvania and its partners, the development of a communication plan to advance the project's goals, and digital security training to support the implementation of security protocols.

The project ended in early 2025 due to a change in funding priorities.

At the same time, the project helped strengthen the Society's partnership with the Penn Cultural Heritage Center. As a result of this cooperation, in September 2025, Anastasiia Oleksii, Executive Director of the Society, participated in the panel discussion "Cultural Freedom and Security in Eastern Europe," held in New York, United States, during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Cultural heritage experts from Ukraine, Georgia, and the United States discussed emerging trends in the destruction of cultural heritage, the spread of disinformation narratives, and information warfare. They also presented approaches to safely monitoring cultural heritage destruction and countering attacks on the cultural sector.

The Raphael Lemkin Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Penn Cultural Heritage Center as part of the Center's Cultural Freedom project programming. The two institutions continue to build on this partnership and are exploring opportunities for future collaboration.



Anastasiia Oleksii, Executive Director of the Society, during a panel discussion in New York

## STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UKRAINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Funding:** European Endowment for Democracy

**Implementation Period:** April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, extended through July 31, 2026

**Partners:** Ukrainian Museum Association; Cultural institution Mizhvukhamy; Penn Cultural Heritage Center; Dovzhenko Center

**Total Project Budget:** EUR 88,000.00

The project aims to support the Raphael Lemkin Society's advocacy efforts to protect Ukrainian cultural heritage, promote the recognition of cultural genocide in Ukraine's national legal framework and on the international stage, and strengthen the organization's institutional capacity.

“ *As Ukraine calls on the world to recognize Russia's war as genocidal, it demonstrates consistency by pursuing accountability for genocide within its own jurisdiction.*

***Daryna Pidhorna,***

*Legal Expert and Analyst at the Raphael Lemkin Society, in an opinion piece for the Kyiv Post*

In 2025, as part of the project, the Society began preparing proposed amendments to Part One of Article 442 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine to include the cultural component in the definition of the crime of genocide.



Vitalii Tytych, Chair of the Board of the Society, second from right, during a discussion at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv

To advocate for the recognition of cultural genocide and build cooperation, the Society held meetings with organizations working in documentation and cultural heritage protection, including the Ukrainian Institute, Cultural Institution Mizhvukhamy, INDEX: Institute for Documentation and Exchange, Lviv Media Forum, the Association of Ukrainian Museums, the Coalition of Culture Actors, Truth Hounds, and representatives of the Office of the Prosecutor General.

The Society's cooperation and network-building efforts helped engage partners in several activities, including the workshop "Culture and Security: Institutional Networking"; the panel discussion "Raphael Lemkin's Legacy and Global Responses to the Genocide of Ukrainians," held during Bouquet Kyiv Stage 2025; and the meeting "Intangible Cultural Heritage: (In)visible Values, (Un)accounted Losses," organized by the Center for Civil Liberties in cooperation with the Coalition of Culture Actors.



Viktoriia Savchuk Kennet, Digital Communication Manager of the Society, during the workshop "Culture and Security: Institutional Networking"



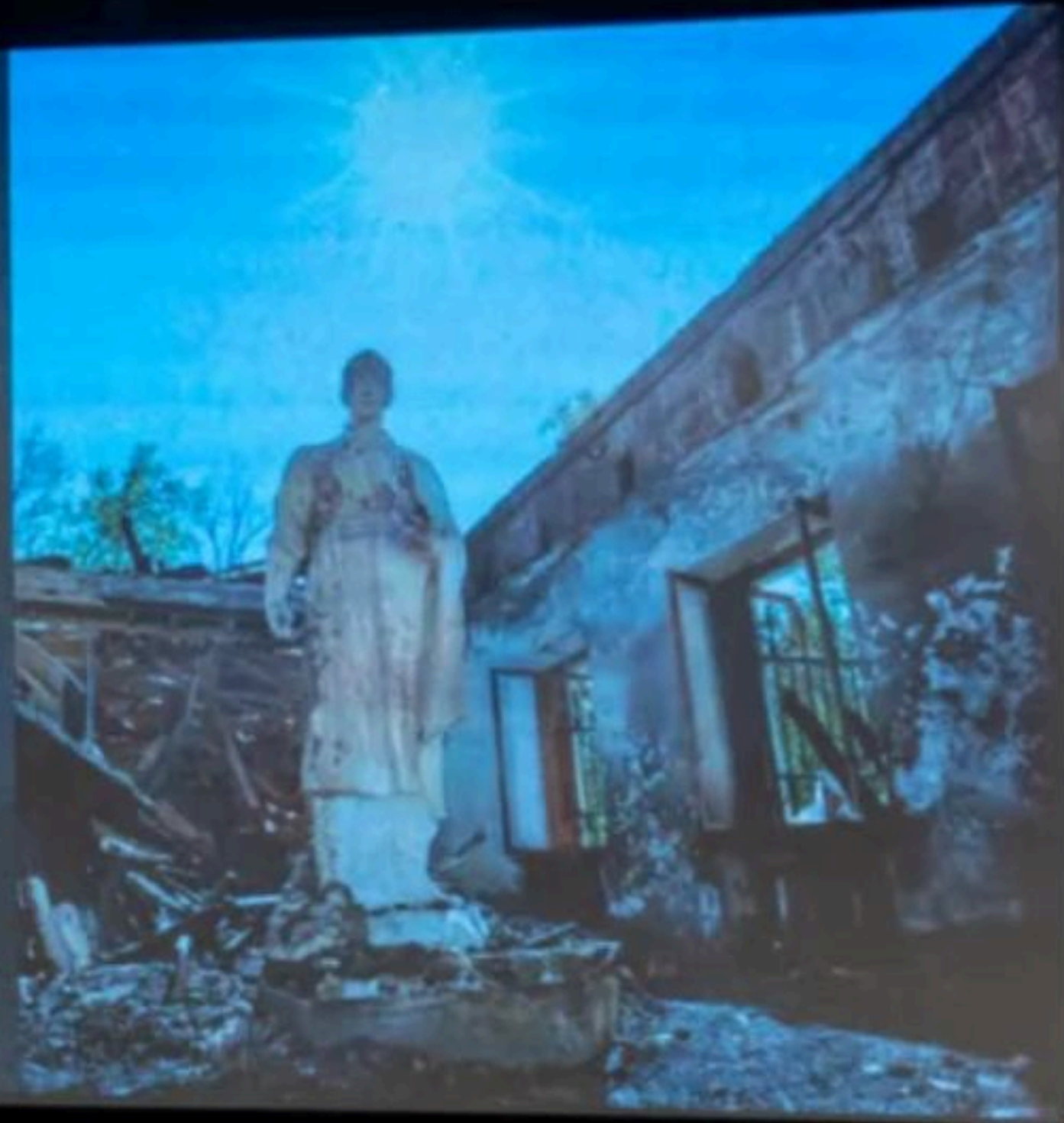
Mariia Zadorozhna, Board Member of the Society, third from right, during a Human Rights Club event

LEMKIN  
society

МІЖ  
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АМІ



Raphael Lemkin Society  
The Destruction of Memory



Screening of Tim Slade's film The Destruction of Memory

As part of its broader advocacy work, on November 27, 2025, the project team, in cooperation with Cultural Institution Mizhvukhamy and the Dovzhenko Center, organized a screening of The Destruction of Memory (directed by Tim Slade, 2016) at the Zhovten Cinema in Kyiv. Cultural actors, students, representatives of civil society, government authorities, law enforcement agencies, diplomatic missions, and institutions registered to attend the event.

“ *Ukrainian cultural heritage is unique and distinctive, which makes its protection vital not only for Ukraine, but also for the world, which can take part in learning about and understanding it.*

**Tim Slade,**  
*Film Director, speaking during a film screening in Kyiv*

The Raphael Lemkin Society regularly covered the team's participation in events on its official social media pages and website, which launched in September 2025. The Society's key messages were also featured in materials published across various media and communication platforms.

To ensure the organization's long-term institutional capacity, the Society continued systematic work on developing and updating its strategic and operational plans.

Work under the project is ongoing.

“ *Lemkin understood the Ukrainian context well and is undoubtedly part of our history. It is a major omission that, for a very long time, we did not study Lemkin. Although information about him can be found in major museums, and although he may appear to have a well-deserved place there, in reality, within academic and legal communities, his legacy still has not received proper recognition.*

**Anton Drobovych,**  
*Head of the Center for Human Rights and War Memorialization at the Kyiv School of Economics, speaking during a discussion at Bouquet Kyiv Stage 2025*

# TIMELINE OF PUBLIC EVENTS

<p><u>Cultural Genocide: From Crime to Accountability</u> Vitalii Tytych Panel discussion as part of Bouquet Kyiv Stage, Kyiv, Ukraine <b>August 2024</b></p>	<p><u>Reception Marking the 76th Anniversary of the Genocide Convention</u> National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine <b>December 2024</b></p>	<p><u>Cultural Freedom and Security in Eastern Europe</u> Anastasiia Oleksii Panel discussion held on the margins of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York, USA <b>September 2025</b></p>	<p><u>Countering Russia's Exploitation of Cultural Heritage</u> Vitalii Tytych, Anastasiia Oleksii Research workshop supported by the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, Bassano del Grappa, Vicenza, Italy <b>November 2025</b></p>
<p><u>Dialogues about Ukraine</u> Halyna Chyzhyk International conference organized by the French Institute in Rennes, France <b>November 2024</b></p>	<p><u>Cultural Heritage and War: Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Responsibility</u> Vitalii Tytych Discussion held as part of the 13th Book Arsenal in Kyiv, Ukraine <b>May 2025</b></p>	<p><u>Intangible Cultural Heritage: (In)visible Values, (Un)accounted Losses</u> Mariia Zadorozhna During a Human Rights Club meeting organized by the Center for Civil Liberties and the Coalition of Culture Actors in Kyiv, Ukraine <b>September 2025</b></p>	<p><u>The Destruction of Memory</u> Private screening of Tim Slade's film The Destruction of Memory and a discussion on the deliberate destruction of culture during Russia's war against Ukraine, held at Zhovten Cinema in Kyiv, Ukraine. <b>November 2025</b></p>
<p><u>What Is Cultural Genocide, and Is It Possible to Restore What Has Been Lost or Hold Russia Accountable?</u> Halyna Chyzhyk Panel discussion organized by the Museum of Stolen Art <b>December 2024</b></p>	<p><u>Raphael Lemkin's Legacy and Global Responses to the Genocide of Ukrainians</u> Vitalii Tytych Panel discussion held as part of Bouquet Kyiv Stage in Kyiv, Ukraine <b>August 2025</b></p>	<p><u>Culture and Security: Institutional Networking</u> Networking workshop for representatives of cultural and museum institutions from different regions of Ukraine, held in Kyiv, Ukraine <b>October 2025</b></p>	<p><u>Preserving Cultural Heritage in the Digital Realm</u> Online presentation of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore's digital catalogue of lost collections <b>December 2025</b></p>

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total for 2024

Funds Raised	UAH 4,339,109.13
Funds Spent	UAH 1,703,340.92

Total for 2025

Funds Raised	UAH 5,235,919.86
Funds Spent	UAH 7,222,372.94

# PARTNERSHIPS

**PEN UKRAINE, INDEX: INSTITUTE FOR DOCUMENTATION AND EXCHANGE, MEMORIAL PLATFORM, UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE, ZMINA HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, UKRAINIAN HERITAGE MONITORING LAB (HEMO), HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAR MEMORIALIZATION CENTER AT THE KYIV SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (KSE)**

The Raphael Lemkin Society became a co-initiator of the online memorial project "Ukrainian Culture Makers Killed by Russia," dedicated to cultural actors who were killed as a result of Russia's full-scale war.

Project co-initiators: PEN Ukraine, INDEX: Institute for Documentation and Exchange, Memorial Platform, the Raphael Lemkin Society, Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, ZMINA Human Rights Center, Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo), and the Human Rights and War Memorialization Center at the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE).

The project was launched on February 11, 2025. Its purpose is to document the names of Ukrainian cultural figures whose creative work was cut short by Russia from 2022 onward, and to call for those responsible for these crimes to be held accountable through international advocacy on behalf of the cases of those killed. In addition, the project initiators seek to continue the work of the cultural figures who were killed through commemorative events, media initiatives, and book projects.

The project initiators recognize that the monitoring is not official or exhaustive and that many Russian crimes will become known only later. They therefore encourage people to share information by email at [killedculturemakers@gmail.com](mailto:killedculturemakers@gmail.com).



Screenshot of the project's homepage

## THE ANTIQUITIES COALITION



Participants of the research workshop in Italy, supported by NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme

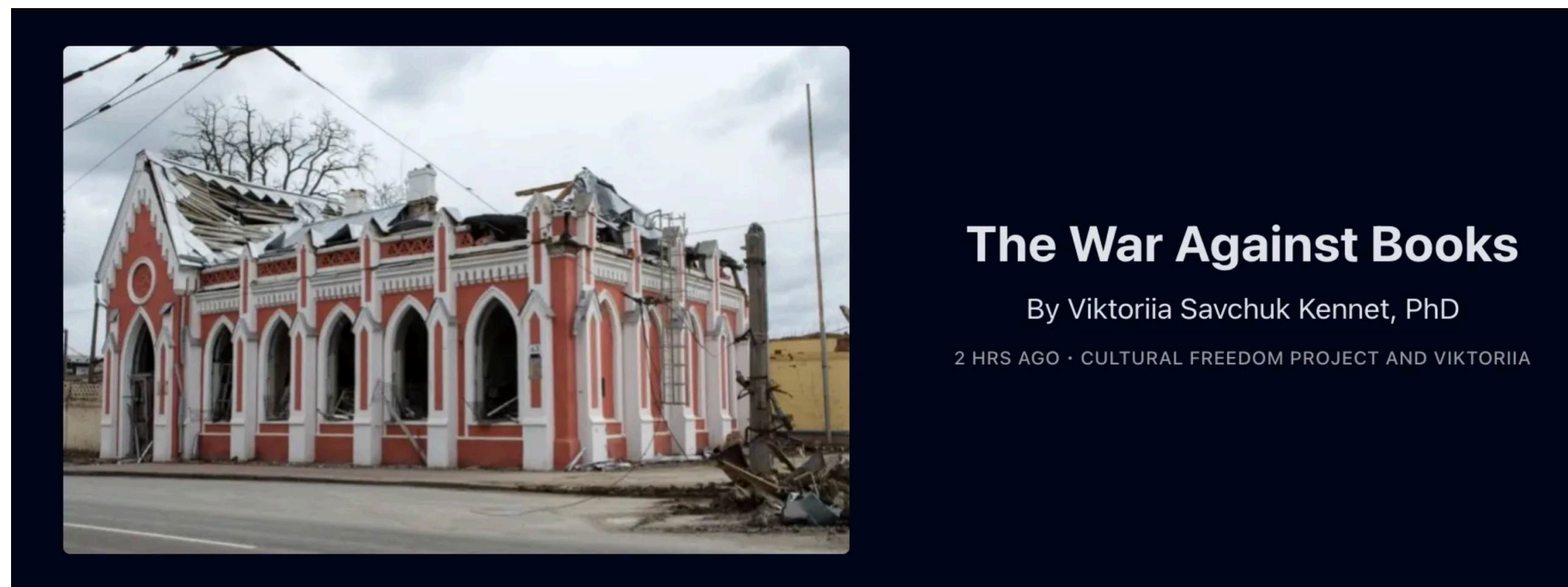
The Raphael Lemkin Society and The Antiquities Coalition joined forces to help NATO counter the weaponization of cultural heritage.

The initiative brings together an interdisciplinary group of experts from NATO member states and partner countries, including representatives of the military, intelligence services, law enforcement agencies, the legal community, and cultural heritage protection specialists. Its immediate goal is to create a sustainable platform for research, cooperation, and training to address this growing security threat.

The program began in 2025 with a research workshop in Italy, supported by NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme. The two-day event focused on an important case study: how Russia advances its military and political objectives in Ukraine and beyond by exploiting cultural heritage, including through cultural looting and the destruction of monuments, disinformation campaigns, and sanctions evasion through abuse of the art market.

From November 7 to 9, 2025, 35 leading experts from 11 NATO and partner countries gathered in Bassano del Grappa, Italy, to examine how the Kremlin has integrated cultural heritage into its broader campaign of aggression. Through expert panels, thematic discussions, and strategic sessions, participants reviewed existing legal and policy mechanisms for response and shared Ukraine's practical experience. Importantly, they also identified concrete steps to strengthen protection, improve coordination, and address gaps in cooperation among military structures, law enforcement agencies, and policy institutions. The dialogue underscored the need for deeper transatlantic cooperation and laid the groundwork for further joint action.

## PENN CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER



One of the Substack publications produced as part of this collaboration

In 2025, the Raphael Lemkin Society joined the Cultural Freedom Project Substack, an initiative of our partner, the Penn Cultural Heritage Center at the University of Pennsylvania. The project focuses on protecting cultural rights, access to culture, and personal safety in times of war. Through this platform, the project team amplifies the voices of independent cultural organizations in Ukraine and Georgia by sharing their work, analysis, and reflections with colleagues and allies around the world.

As part of this collaboration, Viktoriia Savchuk Kennet, the Society's Digital Communication Manager, authored a series of publications. In these articles, she explains how the Society uses legal tools to counter Russia's destruction of Ukrainian culture as a manifestation of genocidal practice. She also analyzes systematic attacks on libraries, publishing houses, and Ukrainian literary figures, and highlights the experience of the Mariupol Museum of Local Lore, which, after being destroyed and looted, continues to operate in evacuation and preserve Ukraine's cultural heritage for future generations.

Subscribe to the Cultural Freedom Project Substack here: <https://culturalfreedomproject.substack.com/>

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Raphael Lemkin. Bettmann/Getty Images



*As long as Ukraine retains its national unity, as long as its people continue to think of themselves as Ukrainians and to seek independence, so long Ukraine poses a serious threat to the very heart of Sovietism.<sup>5</sup>*

***Raphael Lemkin***

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<sup>5</sup> Lemkin, R. (2020). Soviet Genocide in Ukraine (article in 33 languages). Edited by R. Serbyn; compiled by O. Stasiuk. Kyiv: Publisher Melnyk M. Y. <https://holodomormuseum.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Lemkin.pdf>

# LEMKIN

society

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