

Warsaw, May 9th, 2022

The Universal Reading Foundation has announced grants for Ukrainian publishers under the honorary patronage of the First Lady, Agata Kornhauser-Duda.

150 thousand dollars will be donated to Ukrainian publishers as aid grants.

The grant system was announced on May 3rd on the website of the Universal Reading Foundation: www.fpc.org.pl. Ukrainian publishers without Russian capital, active on the publishing market for at least five years and having published at least fifty books, may apply. The partners of the grant competition are: KBF - the operator of the program Krakow City of Literature UNESCO, the Polish Book Chamber and the Association of Ukrainian Publishers and Booksellers. Honorary patronage was assumed by the First Lady of the Republic of Poland.

I am deeply grateful to the Universal Reading Foundation for undertaking an extremely important initiative to support Ukrainian publishers, who right now, in the face of the ongoing war, need to raise funds to continue their activities. Ukrainian publishers have found themselves in a dramatic situation; without help, they will not be able to launch books on the market, the lack of which will result in the decline of readership and, consequently, in the decline of the directly related to it education. – First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda emphasized.

We are delighted with the FPC grant competition for our publishers, the current situation is truly dramatic for them. - noted Oleksandr Afonin, the director of the Association of Ukrainian Publishers and Booksellers.

The announcement of the support system for publishers on May 3 is not accidental. *The adoption of the first Polish Constitution on May 3rd, 1791 was an expression of commitment of Polish citizens to the further fate of our country. The survival of the Ukrainian publishing industry will be the foundation of the readership of Ukrainians, but we are not helping publishers for the love of literature. We want to support the readership in Ukraine because it is the foundation of well-functioning open democracies, the basis for building a strong and innovative economy. The level of readership among Ukrainians will have an enormous impact on the future of our brotherly nation* - says Maria Deskur, president of the Universal Reading Foundation and head of Slowne Publishing House.

Our own history, including the destruction of a huge part of Polish public and home libraries, as well as bookstores and publishing houses during World War II, is a strong signpost for us. We want Ukrainian publishers to be able to continue working for the benefit of their readers. Without this there is no readership - emphasizes Robert Piaskowski, the Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Cracow for Culture.

Of course, publishing houses are businesses, but they are special companies; their activity creates the cultural tissue of a given country and supports the development of subsequent generations of readers. Understanding the role of publishers lies at the heart of our commitment to help our Ukrainian colleagues – adds Sonia Draga, President of the Polish Book Chamber and Sonia Draga Publishing House.

The Universal Reading Foundation donates funds raised in collections since the beginning of the war. Legal services for the grant competition were provided *pro bono* by the law firm Barembruch and Partners. Accounting services are provided *pro bono* by Soltax accounting firm. Crowdfunding is supported *pro bono* by Selectivv, communication is carried out *pro bono* by LoveBrandsGroup agency. *The functioning of Ukrainian publishers is extremely important for maintaining the cultural identity of Ukrainian citizens. We are proud to be a part of this project.* - says Dorota Bieniek-Kaska, CEO of LoveBrands Group. The Foundation continues to help Ukrainian children in Poland and publishers in Ukraine. The Foundation invites you to visit the website www.fpc.org.pl; you can support the Foundation's activities [HERE](#)

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