

2026

SVITLO SCHOOL

GRADUATE CAMP

Foresight

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

City of London

German YMCA in London

Fleet Street Quarter

BBC

UK Parliament

Morgan Stanley

accenture

Google

Bloomberg

LinkedIn

FARRER&Co

INTRODUCTION



WE SUPPORT

Young people from Ukraine aged 10-25 through free education and learning opportunities delivered in English.

WE BELIEVE

The future of Ukraine lies with the next generation, equipped with the language, skills and global outlook needed to rebuild a modern European state.

OUR MISSION

To empower the future political, social and business leaders of Ukraine to become confident global citizens.

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This last academic year at Svitlo School

78
New graduate programme students

1500+
New students

120+
Volunteers



GRADUATE CAMP

Svitlo Graduate Camp is an initiative within Svitlo's Graduate Programme, created for our **18-25 year old students as they transition from Ukrainian secondary education towards higher education and future careers**. This two-week, multifaceted programme is designed to provide tailored support, experiences and connections to help graduates navigate these next steps with greater confidence.

The Graduate Camp was created with a clear mission: to empower young Ukrainians with the skills, experiences and confidence they need to shape their futures, even amid the challenges of war. Today, many students across Ukraine face uncertainty around their education and career opportunities, with our latest survey showing that 64% of older students worry about accessing higher education or securing employment. In response, the camp provided a space for students to **gain practical experience, explore different career paths and connect with mentors and professionals** from a diverse range of fields.

Through **workshops, company visits and direct engagement with professionals**, students were able to broaden their horizons and imagine possibilities beyond the limitations they may face. At its heart, Svitlo Graduate Camp was designed to help young people see themselves as the future architects of Ukraine's recovery and international cooperation, equipped not only with skills, but with the vision, confidence and purpose to shape their own futures and contribute to the future of their country.







LONDON, ENGLAND

Hosting Svitlo Graduate Camp in London brought together learning, professional development, cultural discovery and community in one of the **world's most dynamic cities.**

Volunteers from across the UK and around the world travelled to London to celebrate our graduates, spend time with them and explore the city together through workshops, cultural outings and informal catch-ups. The camp also brought members of the Svitlo team together in person, Lisa, Graduates leader, and Svit, Curriculum Coordinator, travelled with the graduates from Ukraine to support throughout the programme. For some graduates, the camp also provided their first opportunity to study in an international learning environment through a two-week course at International House.

Every day also brought opportunities to step inside some of the world's most influential organisations, including Google, Bloomberg, LinkedIn and EBRD. Through talks, mentorship and interactive workshops, **students gained first-hand exposure to global industries,** learned from leading professionals and began to imagine how their own ambitions could connect to careers that may once have felt beyond their reach.

Beyond the professional programme, cultural outings allowed students to explore **London's history, diversity and international spirit**, while navigating a new city, experiencing the arts and developing greater independence.

Together, these experiences made London the perfect backdrop for Graduate Camp, **a place where learning met opportunity and students could see their futures as full of possibility.**



GERMAN YMCA IN LONDON

A huge thank you to the German YMCA in London for their generous support.

The German YMCA in London has supported Svitlo's Graduate Camp for the past two years. Through their **Room for Opportunity** initiative, they generously provided our graduates with accommodation in the heart of London, as well as meals throughout their stay. They also provided train tickets to Canterbury, giving our graduates the opportunity to explore another part of the UK on a day trip with our volunteers, Natasha and Christina.

In addition, the German YMCA provided access to conference room facilities throughout the two-week programme, creating a dedicated space for volunteer-led workshops, group activities and time for our graduates to come together.



COMPANY VISTS

We are grateful to these leading organisations that hosted our students for site visits, offering talks, mentorship, and, in some cases, hands-on workshops with industry professionals. These experiences provided students with meaningful insight and inspiration to inform their future educational and career choices.

Accenture

Accenture's visit gave insight into the company's use of technology, data, AI and new ways of working to help their clients reinvent their businesses to reach their full potential. They also attended a **panel and Q&A** with Accenture professionals.

Mimo

Mimo Associate is an AI-powered tool that helps accounting firms close their books faster by reducing manual data entry. Our graduates joined a **session with a Strategic Account Executive,** gaining insights into Mimo, its technology and the world of accounting.

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley is a global financial services firm that helps corporations, governments, institutions and individuals raise, manage and invest capital. Our students had the opportunity to have lunch with two members of the team, creating a relaxed environment to **ask questions** and hear about their **career journeys**.

Fleet Street Quarter

Fleet Street Quarter is a Business Improvement District working to enhance, promote and transform the historic area. Our students **learned about the Quarter's development pipeline**, local placemaking and the BID model, as well as how its work supports the area's ongoing economic growth.

BBC

Our Svitlo students had the opportunity to **tour the world's leading public service broadcaster**. They learnt about the production of their wide range of programmes, content and services for audiences across the UK on television, radio and digitally, including their global news service.

Bloomberg

Bloomberg provides trusted financial data, news and insights to help connect the global financial community and support informed decision-making. Our students had the opportunity to **tour Bloomberg's offices** and hear from employees during an engaging **Q&A panel,** gaining insight into their careers and experiences.

EBRD

Our students had the opportunity to step into the shoes of an EBRD Operations Committee through an i**nteractive mock investment exercise.** Working in groups, they explored an investment proposal from different perspectives: one team presented the project and made the case for investment, another assessed its integrity and reputational risks, and a third examined its environmental and social considerations. Each group then presented to a panel of EBRD employees, who considered the different perspectives before making a final decision.

Parliament

The students took part in an **audio tour of Parliament**, where they learned about its history, the roles of the House of Commons and House of Lords, and the voting process. They also got to see the spot where President Zelensky delivered his speech, offering a moment for reflection on leadership and democracy.






Google

Google is a global technology company providing a wide range of internet and technology products and services. Our students had the opportunity to hear from Google employees during a **Q&A panel,** gaining **valuable career advice and insight** into their professional journeys.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn's mission is to connect the world's professionals to make them more productive and successful. LinkedIn hosted an i**nspiring session on building professional profiles**, developing personal brands and using LinkedIn for networking and career research. A panel with LinkedIn team members offered valuable insights into their career journeys, alongside practical advice for professional growth.

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre

SBREC provides specialist business information, market research and expert support to help businesses make informed decisions and grow with confidence. Our graduates received an introduction to SBREC, including an overview of its databases and resources, followed by a **guided tour and hands-on exploration** of its market research tools.

Farrer & Co

Farrer & Co, a prestigious British law firm serving individuals, charities, and corporations, is renowned for its high-quality legal services. Students attended a **panel discussion with firm representatives**, explored responsible business and pro bono work, an introduction to marketing at a professional services firm session and participated in a **CV workshop**.







TIME WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS

Art with Irina

The students visited the M.C.Eshcer Exhibition at Somerset House with Irina. They then enjoyed an inspiring excursion to the National Gallery, where they took part in a guided tour exploring some of the world's most renowned artworks. Following the tour, they participated in a hands-on watercolour and drawing workshop, giving them the chance to put their creativity into practice.







Photography with Valya

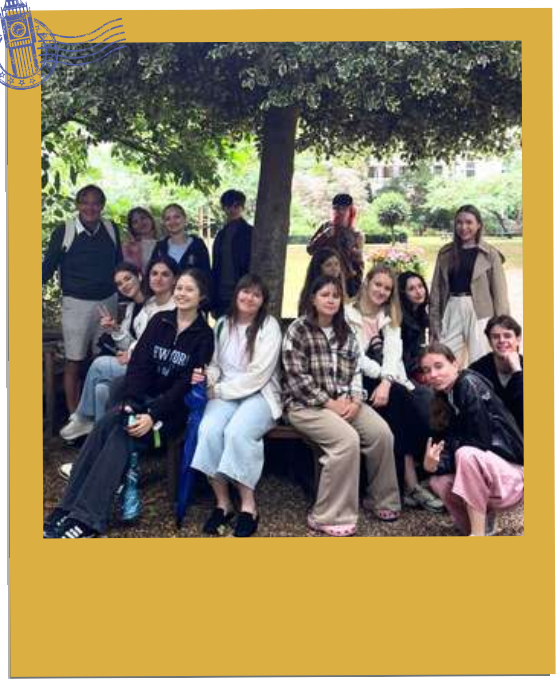
Valya, who has been teaching photography with Svitlo since the beginning of the war, led a hands-on photography session for our students. With 10 cameras generously supplied by Canon, students learned the fundamentals of setting up and using professional cameras before heading on a photography walk through Little Venice and other scenic areas of London.



Tai Chi with Christina

Christina flew to London from the USA to spend time with our graduates, bringing moments of calm and connection to their busy days. She led Tai Chi sessions in the park, giving students a chance to decompress and recharge, as well as joining them for morning walks through Hyde Park. Together, they also enjoyed Vivaldi's Four Seasons by Candlelight at St Mary le Strand.





Kensington with Philippe

Philippe gave our students a unique glimpse into London, leading a tour through private Kensington Gardens and the charming mews around Kensington. The group then came together with our team and volunteers to celebrate the end of Graduate Camp.



Greenwich & the O2 with MJ

Our students had the opportunity to spend time with MJ, who travelled from Portugal to join them in London. Together, they took the Uber Boat to Greenwich, visited the Royal Observatory, travelled by Cable Car above the River Thames and explored the O2. MJ also joined the students for their talent show, rounding off the programme with an evening of fun and celebration.



CULTURAL ACTIVITES

Cultural outings across London gave our graduates the opportunity to explore the city's rich history, diversity and international spirit, while developing their independence and confidence in navigating a new environment. From iconic landmarks and world-class theatre to unique cultural experiences, these outings broadened their perspectives, sparked inspiration and created lasting memories.

Our graduates began their two-week programme with a visit to **Horizon 22,** taking in panoramic views of London and gaining a new perspective on the city.

For some students, watching **Wicked, the Musical** in the West End was their very first experience of live theatre, offering a memorable introduction to London's vibrant performing arts scene.

A Friday evening at **Rooftop Cinema Club,** watching Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, provided a unique opportunity to enjoy the arts, spend time with Yuliya and members of the Svitlo team, and create lasting memories together.

Our graduates also enjoyed a tour of London aboard the **Great British Tea Bus,** where they experienced traditional afternoon tea while taking in the city's sights and spending time with some of our wonderful volunteers.

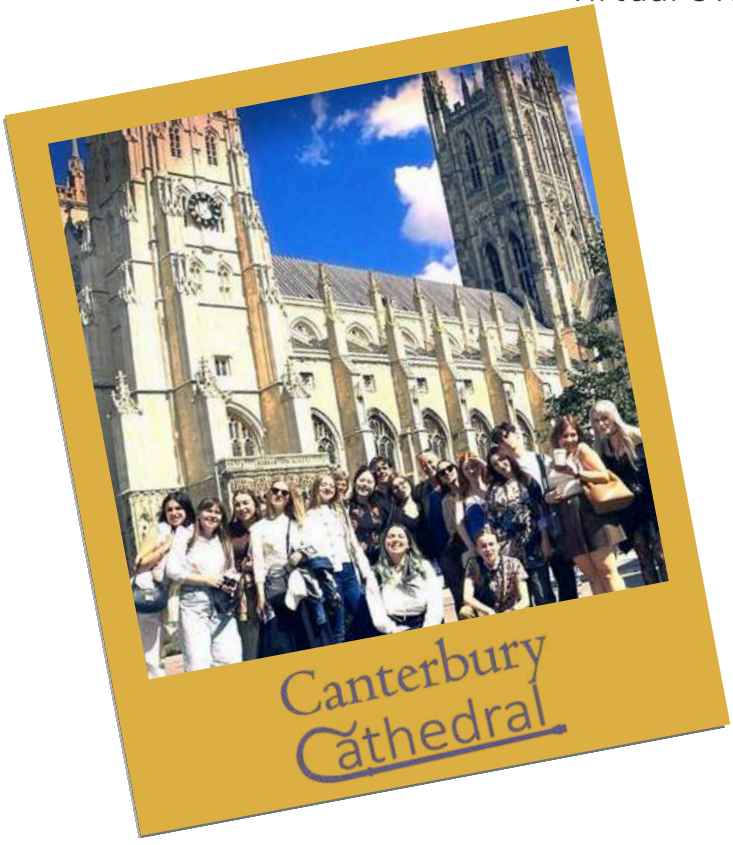


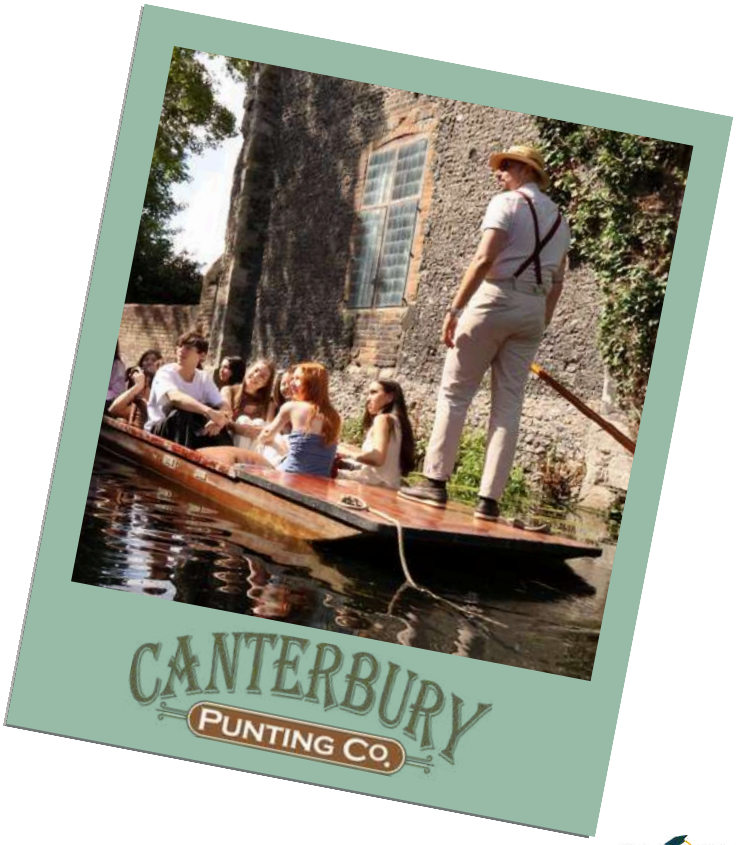
DAY TRIP TO CANTERBURY

A cultural highlight of Graduate Camp was a day trip to Canterbury, offering our graduates the opportunity to explore a historic city beyond London and experience another part of the UK. The German YMCA in London generously provided the train tickets, making this special day out possible.

The graduates spent the day with our volunteer Natasha, who led a tour of Canterbury and enjoyed catching up with the group along the way. They also visited Canterbury Cathedral, one of England's oldest and most significant historic landmarks, before experiencing the city from the water on a punting trip, generously provided by Natasha.

The visit offered a wonderful opportunity for the graduates to **discover a new part of the UK while strengthening their connections with Svitlo volunteers in person.** Christina, who had travelled from the US to spend time with the students during their stay in London, also joined the group for the day, making it a particularly special opportunity to spend time together beyond the virtual Svitlo classroom.





STACY





The Farrer & Co workshop had a particularly strong impact on Stacy. Hearing about the team's career journeys and seeing their passion and drive inspired her to consider pursuing a second degree in Law. The session reinforced the importance of challenging yourself, investing in your education and continuing to develop throughout your career. **Stacy left feeling incredibly motivated** to aim higher and work towards the future she wants to build.

Stacy thoroughly enjoyed visiting the M.C. Escher exhibition with Irina. Exploring the exhibition gave her a chance to experience how London brings together history and contemporary creativity, with every corner of the city offering its own story.

Standing at Horizon 22, looking over London, I caught myself thinking, "I'm actually here. Right here, right now." I was so overwhelmed by everything I was experiencing that I genuinely felt like crying - in the best possible way.

And then came Accenture, which I had been looking forward to for so long. Seeing the company from the inside, hearing about consulting, meeting the people who work there, and, of course, seeing our Sasha in her element made it feel even more special.

It was one of those days that I know I'll remember for a very long time - not only because of the places we visited, but because of how they made me feel: **inspired, grateful, excited and even more ambitious about my future.**

DORI



Visiting Google and Bloomberg offices sounded like something that could never happen to be, but it happened. The visits and meetings with the representatives inspired me so much, these people showed that everything is possible and if you want it really bad - you will get it, even if your friends or parents think that is unbelievably hard.

Meeting people from Svitlo, whom I used to see through my laptop and making a lot of memories together still makes me cry. I found people with whom I share the same goals and I want them to be in my life. A huge thank you to Christina and MJ for coming from that far to meet and spend time with us. I will always remember my teachers and their advice, because it's really what I needed to hear and it really helped.

I also want to say huge thank you to Iryna, Valentyna and those who organised all those activities for us. All of them were so interesting!
I can't imagine my life without our community, people are the ones who make this place special and I want them to know that they are doing a great job and have a valuable mission.

The first few days in London were really hard for me, I used to check my phone for news about the situation in my city almost every 20 minutes. It was also really hard to adapt to the civil airplanes and sounds of engines. I can remember walking with my friends late at night to the supermarket and feeling the freedom I have, and feeling that right at this moment I am actually living my life.

Memories about going to the city centre with my friends to do evening photos near Big Ben and then getting lost in the tube will always be in my mind. This trip gave me the opportunity to experience a lot of things and I am really grateful that I am part of our amazing community. I will always say: **"London and these people are the best things that could have ever happened to me, I want these people to know, that you guys healed my soul"**

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE LONDON

International House London

Seven of our visiting students had the opportunity to study at International House London for two weeks.

International House London provided a group of our students with the opportunity to study General English 25 for two weeks alongside the Graduate Camp. The course focused on developing all four language skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking - while also improving pronunciation, fluency and vocabulary. Students developed their confidence in using English for both professional and social settings, built new international friendships and received a certificate recognising their English level.

Our Svitlo team member, Svit, also had the opportunity to take part in the Current Trends in Language Teaching course. The course explored the latest approaches and methods in English Language Teaching, giving Svit the opportunity to learn how these have developed, evaluate practical teaching ideas and build confidence in applying them when designing teaching materials. The course also provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the needs of teachers and students with fellow educators.







ARINA'S TIME AT IH



It was so much more than just English lessons. **It was an incredible mix of learning, meeting people from all over the world, laughing together and creating memories every single day.**

I'm so grateful for this experience. It was truly a special time for me, and I'll remember it for a very, very long time 🤍





My time at International House in London was honestly an unforgettable experience.
One of my favourite things was how quickly I became close with my classmates. We came from different countries and backgrounds, but somehow it felt so easy to connect, laugh and spend time together. I definitely didn't expect to make such amazing friends in such a short time 🥹

And the lessons were something else! **Our teachers were incredible at making every class interactive and fun**, so the time just flew by. We discussed everything from the Royal Family to the Kardashians.

SASHA'S TIME AT IH

It was such an immersive experience!🤩

Honestly speaking, before my courses at International House started, I was pretty biased about what my experience there would be like. As I've been learning English for 13 years already, I thought what else could there possibly be to discover about it?🤏

During these 2 weeks I discovered so many new things about English - not only advanced vocabulary, but also diverse dialects, accents and styles of spoken and written language!

On top of that, **I felt so welcomed there!** The staff, teachers and classmates were so supportive and kind all the time - I wish I could stay in such a community forever! I've made so many pleasant memories during the classes, and that's what makes this journey truly special and meaningful to me.



Thanks a million to International House for giving even more of us the chance to have such an incredible experience and of course, to Svitlo School for choosing me to take such an amazing opportunity!💗🫂



OUR GRADUATION CELEBRATION

To mark the conclusion of Svitlo Graduate Camp, our students, now graduates of Ukrainian schools, came together for a special Graduation Ceremony at The Shard. The evening celebrated not only their two weeks in London, but also their achievements and journeys with Svitlo School.

Svitlo staff, volunteers, partners and supporters gathered above the London skyline to celebrate our Class of 2026 and reflect on the journey that brought them there.



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

Our Founder & CEO, Yuliya, spoke about the importance of Graduate Camp in preparing Ukraine's future leaders with the skills, confidence and connections to pursue their ambitions.

Alison, a long-term Svitlo teacher who teaches Story Time in the younger group and mentors older children to become Reading Buddies, shared her experience of supporting our students over the years.

Our graduating student Oleksandra also reflected on her Svitlo journey and her dream of helping to rebuild Ukraine, a particularly moving moment for everyone in the room.

A huge thank you to the team at **Foresight Group** for providing such a stunning venue and supporting us with IT and logistics; the wonderful team at **Virtual Approval** for going above and beyond to deliver a seamless event both in person and online; Valya from **KiNOcourse.online** for capturing the day so beautifully; and **StreamAlive** for your support in ensuring that students joining online could feel just as involved as those in the room.

We are so excited to see where our graduates go next and the impact they will have. To be part of Svitlo is to carry its light forward, together.







WHAT IT MEANS FOR US

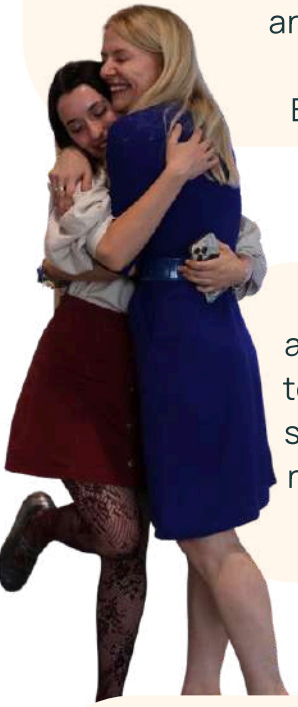
There is something incredibly bittersweet about graduation. You know that this exact version of your life will never happen again. The same people will go in different directions, new chapters will begin, and the group chat will slowly become a collection of memories rather than everyday conversations.

But maybe that is what makes it so beautiful.

We did not just graduate from a camp. We graduated from a chapter of our lives and we left it carrying pieces of each other with us.

But I know I will remember how it felt to be there.





Both this and last year has been the biggest highlight of my summer! Meeting and talking to so many amazing people made me feel genuinely happy and proud to be part of such a wonderful community as Svitlo School. I was really excited to see some of the people I met the previous year and, of course, get to know some new ones! Having experienced such emotional and unforgettable moments, you genuinely understand: this is what we live for!🥹✨

As a group leader, I can say this career trip to London changed how our students see themselves. They visited workplaces, talked to professionals and saw career paths they had only read about before. For Ukrainian students this is a rare opportunity. What I value most is that they're bringing this experience home and will use it to help rebuild Ukraine.

— Lisa Tkachenko, Career Lead, Svitlo Graduates



THANK YOU TO OUR SVITLO TEAM

It was incredible to extend this opportunity to members of the Svitlo Team in Ukraine, who travelled to London alongside our Graduate students. Our team worked incredibly hard both before and throughout Graduate Camp to make the experience as special and meaningful as possible for our students.

Lisa also created a dedicated app for the students, where they could journal their thoughts, capture useful knowledge and reflect on each part of the two-week programme. This has provided them with a valuable toolkit of insights, experiences and inspiration to draw on as they explore their future pathways.

A massive thank you also to Tasia, our wonderful Svitlo volunteer, who was the group's London chaperone throughout the two weeks. She dedicated her time to guiding the students around London, helping them navigate the city and making sure they could make the most of every opportunity during their stay.



Lisa



Svit



Kate



Vira



Tasia



Ira



Maya



Leslie

CONCLUSION

With our deepest thanks to every company, organisation, volunteer and individual who generously shared their time, expertise and support with our students. Your generosity made these experiences possible and helped our students discover new ideas, connections and possibilities for their futures.

To conclude this report, we are delighted to share a poem by our wonderful volunteer, Christina Lohry, reflecting on Graduate Camp.

Song of the Golden Wheatfield

At the crossroads of cultures,
Sits winter wheat and tempered steel,
Vulnerable in their protection of freedom.
Even with the clouds of war wrapped around their shoulder,
The blue and yellow flag flutter
The song of sadness and hope.
Enduring brutal winters
Only fortifies their resilience,
With strength of conviction emerging even stronger.

With shared apprehension,
Lonely birds flock to the Union Jack.
Greeting unknown as best mates,
They adjust to the freedom of friendly blue skies.
And recharge in the kindness of strangers.
'Hail to the quiet warriors who lend their hearts riches over airwaves of hope and fear.'

Timid at first,
then boldly, without hesitation,
They move slowly along burnt-out gardens,
And eagerly listen to the presentations of giants.
Sparks begin to ignite,
and passions light up their darkest dreams.
Intellect and innovation emerge innately.
Despite the world's tantalizing empty promises,
Peace feels close at hand yet far, far off.

A beautiful newborn and her soft-hearted mother with fiery red lips,
Proudly wearing Vyshyvanka, reminds us,
“The glory and will of Ukraine has not yet … perished”
Led by their fearless leader in her armor of cobalt, blue,
and bright yellow stilettos.
Pillars of strength, the fields of sunflowers,
continue to turn their heads to the great eastern sun.
A joyous bond of sisterhood veiled in plain sight thrives,
As vibrant green sprouts leap from the carnage of bombs,
The soft duet of the bandura and nightingale,
Speaks of a nation's unbreakable spirit.

Returning to your families
With gifts of gratitude,
And the fighting spirit of youth,
Declare to the world
Your golden letters of compassion
written in the souls of all mankind,
though few are brave enough to see.

By Christina Lohry

Help Us Create More Opportunities for Ukraine's Future Leaders

Svitlo's work is made possible by a community of supporters who believe in the potential of young Ukrainians.

Here are some ways you can support our students:

- **Donate through our website** to help us continue providing free learning opportunities.
- **Volunteer with Svitlo**, or share our volunteering page with your network and colleagues.
- **Make an introduction** at your workplace, educational institution or within your wider network to help us build new partnerships.
- **Follow and share** our work on Instagram and LinkedIn to help grow our community and spread the word.

Every connection can help open a door, create an opportunity or inspire a young person to see what is possible. Together, we can help Ukraine's future leaders grow with confidence, build meaningful connections and shape a brighter future for themselves and their country.



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