

**Integration and Advocacy for Socially Vulnerable Populations**

A Project for Ukraine

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by World Learning.

**Program Contacts:** Ms. Meghan Simpson and Ms. Ashalyn Hardy, World Learning, 1015 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005; Telephone ‑ (202) 464‑8526 or (202) 464-5228; Toll‑free ‑ (800) 858‑0292; Email ‑ meghan.simpson@worldlearning.org or ashalyn.hardy@worldlearning.org

**Department of State Program Contacts:** Ms. Charlotte Titus and Ms. Tonya Wallace, Office of International Visitors; Telephone ‑ (202) 632‑632-9390 or (202) 632‑9396; Fax ‑ (202) 453‑8548; Email ‑ tituscf@state.gov or wallacetd@state.gov

**Accompanied by:** Mr. Alexander Shepel, Simultaneous Interpreter, Mr. Peter Voitsekhovsky, Simultaneous Interpreter, Ms. Nataliya Kononenko, Administrative Interpreter, Ms. Tetiana Patra, accompanying Ms. Svitlana Patra

**May 8 - 26, 2017**

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PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

* Examine federal, state and local legislation and policies designed to support and protect the civil and human rights of vulnerable populations;
* Build the capacity of vulnerable populations to advocate for their rights and initiate legislative reform;
* Explore support services for conflict‑affected populations integrating into new communities;
* Explore best practices in integrating vulnerable populations that ensure access to local infrastructure including transportation, housing, education and employment; and
* Examine how the NGO sector, media, and the arts community can support special needs and socially vulnerable youth

PARTICIPANT LIST

**Ukraine Ms. Liliya DROBIT**

Rehabilitation Specialist, Kolping Family Center for Physical Rehabilitation

**Mr. Serhii LETUCHYI**

Frontman, Flying Swan band

**Ms. Svitlana PATRA**

Freelance Writer, Ukraina University Image Center

**Ms. Maryna STASHYNA NEIMET**

Head, Commission on Employment, Uzhgorod Branch, Division of Ukrainian National Union of Organizations for Special Needs

**Mr. Andriy ZALIVSKYY**

Mayor, Chervonohrad

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**Ukraine**

*Name:* **Ms. Liliya DROBIT**

*Present Position:* Rehabilitation Specialist, Kolping Family Center for Physical Rehabilitation

*Concurrent Position:* Assistant, Department of Correction and Inclusive Education

*Previous Positions:* Psychologist, Lviv Regional Psychiatric Hospital, 2014-2015

*Education/Training:* Diploma of Specialist, Psychologist, Lviv Ivan Franko National University, 2015

Diploma of Specialist, Medicine, Lviv Danylo Halytskyi National Medical University, 2005

*Address:* Lviv

Ukraine

Email: lilia.drobit@gmail.com

*Languages:* Ukrainian (*primary*), English, Polish, Russian

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Bulgaria, Poland, Turkey

*Professional Background:* Ms. Lilia Drobit is a Rehabilitation Specialist at Kolping Family Center for Physical Rehabilitation in Lviv, western Ukraine. She played a central role in establishing a resource center to help her organization better assist groups of children with a variety of developmental disabilities. The Resource Center features an arts studio and other adaptive tools, and provides psycho-social support to the internally displaced population in Lviv. Ms. Drobit has also implemented a series of trainings on behavioral management to social workers, psychologists, teachers, and education administrators, drawing from both Ukrainian and American experiences and best practices. Ms. Drobit is interested in trauma-focused therapy; psychotherapy for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and war veterans; and psychological and social support and assistance to people with disabilities of all ages.

**Ukraine**

*Name:* **Mr. Serhii LETUCHYI**

*Present Position:* Frontman, Flying Swan band

*Concurrent Position:* Event Manager, Luhansk Oblast Public Library

*Education/Training:* Diploma of Specialist, Pedagogy

*Memberships:* National Assembly of People with Special Needs

Association of Youth with Special Needs of Eastern Donbass

*Address:* Starobilsk, Luhansk Oblast

Ukraine

Email: flyingsergey77@gmail.com

*Languages:* Ukrainian (*primary*), Russian

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* N/A

*Professional Background:* Mr. Serhii Letuchyi is a musician, human rights activist, and devoted advocate for the special needs community of Ukraine. Using a wheelchair, he has traveled across his country to serve as an example and to inspire youth, those with and without disabilities. In 2010, Serhii founded a musical duet called “Flying Swan,” which emphasizes the cultural unity of Ukraine. Mr. Letuchyi is an active member of several civil society organizations, including the National Assembly of People with Special Needs and the Association of Youth with Special Needs of Eastern Donbass. He also partners with several other organizations catering to IDPs and special needs groups. Mr. Letuchyi was instrumental making Luhansk Oblast Public Library a center of cultural life in the region. He is committed to issues of accessibility and advocacy for people with special needs.

**Ukraine**

*Name:* **Ms. Svitlana PATRA**

*Present Position:* Freelance Writer, Ukraina University Image Center

*Previous Positions:* Website editor, Ukraina University

*Education/Training:* Diploma of Specialist, Printing Business and Editing, Ukraina University, Kyiv, 2013

*Memberships:* National Union of Journalists of Ukraine

*Publications:* Multiple articles on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine

*Address:* Podillia, Baryshiv Raion

Kyiv Oblast

Ukraine

Email: svetlana2481@gmail.com

*Languages:* Ukrainian (*primary*), Russian

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. Travel

*Other Travel:* Belgium

*Professional Background:* A journalist, Ms. Svitlana Patra regularly write about people with special needs, focusing on their successes and triumphs. She is a graduate of Ukraina University, a school known for its progressive ideas in the area of education for students with special needs, and a committed advocate for inclusive education. Ms. Patra is particularly interested in education for people with special needs. She also looks forward to exploring the roles that journalism, literature, music, and other cultural media play in supporting inclusion and advocacy for people with disabilities.

**Ukraine**

*Name:* **Ms. Maryna STASHYNA NEIMET**

*Present Position:* Head, Commission on Employment, Uzhgorod Branch, Division of Ukrainian National Union of Organizations for Special Needs

*Previous Positions:* Social Worker, Choice (Transcarpathian regional center for social and professional support)

*Education/Training:* Diploma of Specialist, History and Law, Luhansk National University after Taras Shevchenko, 2010

*Memberships:* Center for Community Initiatives

*Address:* Uzhgorod  
Ukraine  
Email: denis.sukhotin@ukr.net

*Languages:* Ukrainian (*primary*), English

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland

*Professional Background:* In Uzhgorod, western Ukraine, Ms. Maryna Stashyna Neimet leadsthe Commission on Employment of the Ukrainian National Union of Organizations for Special Needs in Zakarpattia Oblast. Her responsibilities include designing and promoting workforce development programs for youth with disabilities, with a special focus on education. Additionally, she advocates for the integration of special education in higher education curricula, support for schools that offer special needs teacher training, and inclusive education. Focusing on teachers, parents, and peers, she has initiated a series of roundtables and community events that promote inclusive language and tolerance toward children with disabilities. Ms. Stahsyna Neimet is also involved in efforts to integrate internally displaced youth in her community. She is interested in the deinstitutionalization of youth with special needs, as well as issues pertaining to life and professional skills development, architectural accessibility, and education for students with visual impairment.

**Ukraine**

*Name:* **Mr. Andriy ZALIVSKYY**

*Present Position:* Mayor, Chervonohrad

*Previous Positions:* Director, Private Business, 2015

*Education/Training:* Master’s degree, State Administration, National Academy of State Administration, 2006

Diploma of Specialist, History, Teacher of History,Lesya UkrainkaEastern EuropeanNational University, 1999

*Address:* Chervonohrad, Lviv Oblast

Ukraine

Email: zandi@ukr.net

Languages: Ukrainian (*primary*)

*U.S. Travel:* Arkansas, Washington, DC

*Other Travel:* Germany, Poland

*Professional Background:* Mr. Andriy Zalivskyy is the Mayor of Chervonohrad, a western Ukrainian mining town that is currently facing several socio-economic challenges, ranging from unemployment and waste management issues to the inclusion of IDPs and special needs groups and the re-integration of returning soldiers. He is committed to supporting IDPs, workforce development for special needs, and community services for vulnerable groups in his community.