

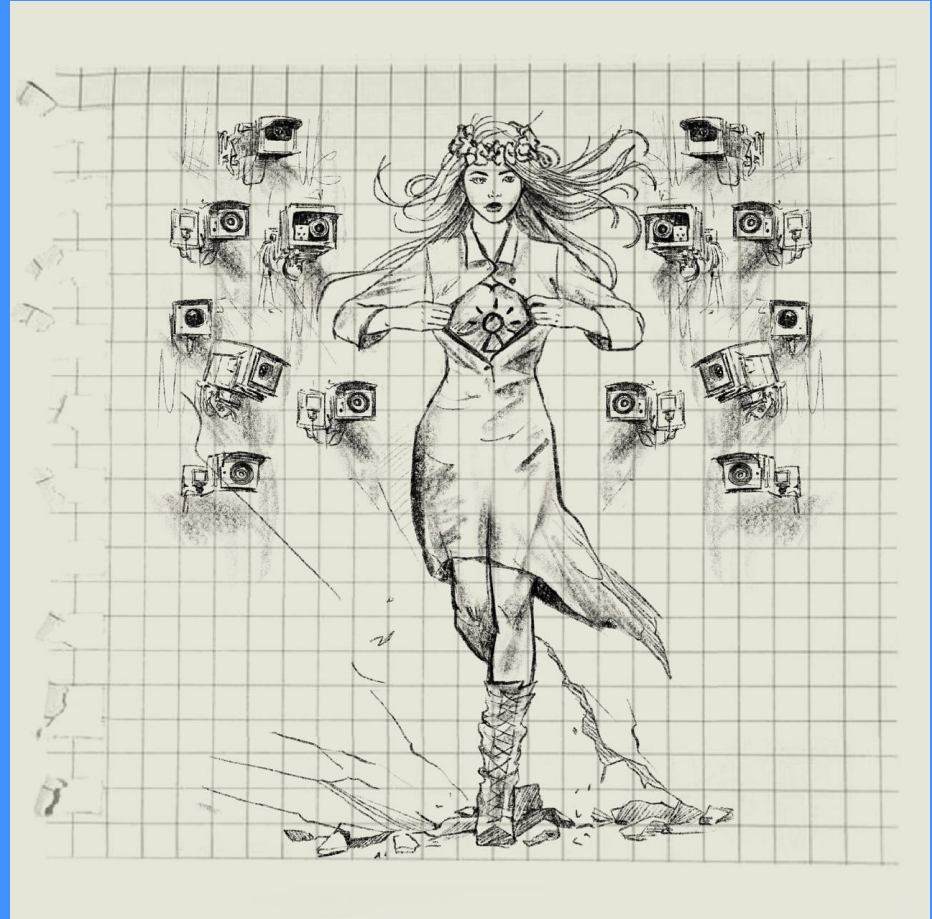
RES & REC



NEGOTIATING BELONGING AND IDENTITY UNDER OCCUPATION:

Civic Resilience, Resistance,
and Everyday Acts

Dr Olha Mukha



**UNDER
OCCUPATION**



The latest data, from October 2025, indicates about 117,143 sq km are under Russian occupation, which is roughly 19% of Ukraine's total area.

Occupied regions: Crimea, most of Luhansk and Donetsk, about two-thirds of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, select districts in Kharkiv and Sumy.

The population currently living under occupation is estimated at 3–3.5 million people.



Note: Area of control includes assessed and claimed Russian-occupied territory as of August 13, 2025.

Sources: Institute for the Study of War and AEI Critical Threats Project; Russian Fortifications, Brady Africk.

By Region, Specific Examples:

Donetsk region: almost entirely occupied; Ukraine controls about 25% of the region.

Luhansk region: nearly the whole region is under Russian control.

Kherson region: Russia controls about 64% of the region.

Zaporizhzhia region: around 66% occupied, including Enerhodar, Melitopol, Berdyansk.

In Kharkiv region, Russian occupation covers about 5%; in Sumy less than 1%.



Impact and Situation

The active frontline in 2025 runs more than 1,000 km through eastern and southern Ukraine, particularly in Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson.

Russian forces continually extend the occupation with violence and repression, including forced Russification, suppression of language and culture, and integration into Russian administrative structures.

WHERE DO THEY BELONG?

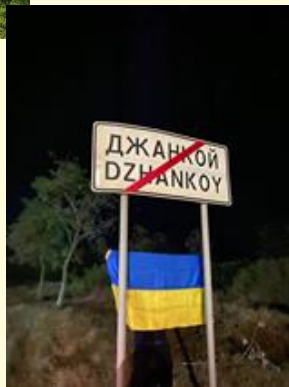
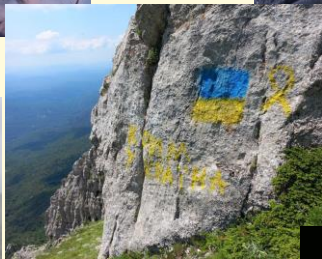


It is not only about territories, it is about people

- 12 sections exhibition focused on TOT and NVR
- From history of NVR in Ukraine, through storytelling, humour, memes collections and artistic response and resilience
- VR and labyrinth experiences
- Documentation of Yellow Ribbon and Angry Mavka non-violent resistance campaigns
- Museum Crisis Centre



небачена сила
unseen force











ДЕЛАЮ ВИД, ЧТО
НЕТ ВОЙНЫ

ДЕЛАЮ ВИД, ЧТО
Я ВНЕ ПОЛИТИКИ

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Вдаю, що
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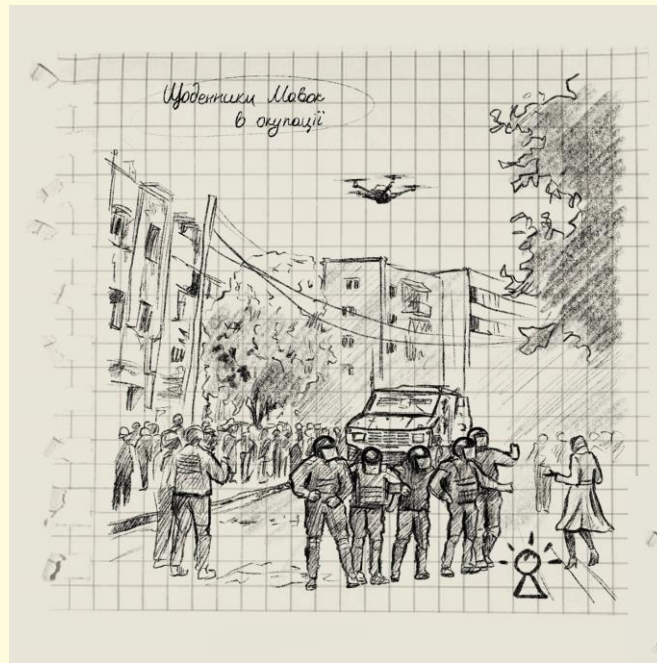
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CASE STUDY

ANGRY MAVKA'S “DIARIES FROM THE OCCUPATION”



EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPE OF THE OCCUPATION



Reality denial



Back to Soviet practices



Social pressure

Informational
control

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Aggressive
propaganda

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Rewriting history
narratives

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Broken families



No medical support
without Russian
passport &
aggressive
passportisation
campaign



Vulnerable groups
left alone



TARGETING CHILDREN

Claiming
Ukrainian identity as a
mental disorder



Separating children
from their families



Forcing to support
occupational
army forces



Forced Russification and Cultural Suppression

Residents face mandatory language change in schools, the rewriting of curricula, and pressure to use Russian in public life and administration.

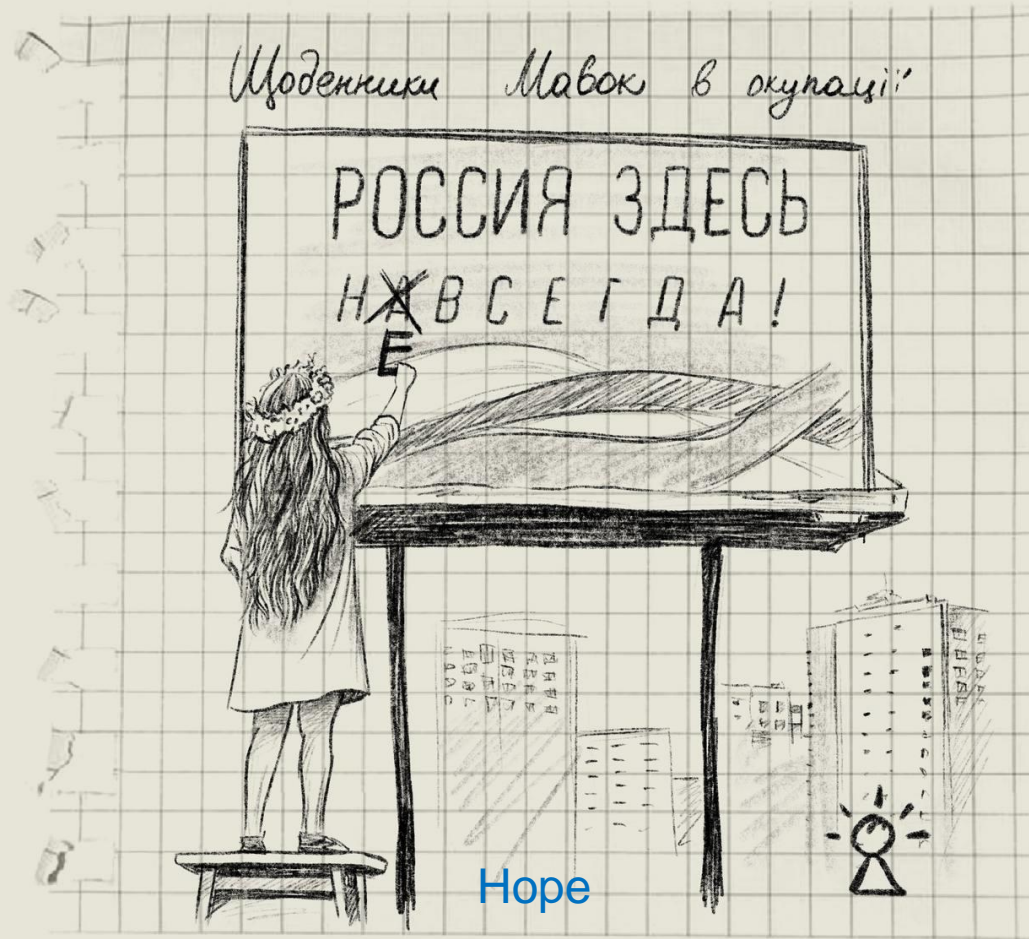
Ukrainian symbols, holidays, and cultural practices are systematically erased, and place names are altered to Russian equivalents.

Those who resist—activists, journalists, educators—are exposed to intense repression, including detention, torture, deportation, and loss of property or civil rights.

Russian citizenship is pushed aggressively; refusing it means loss of basic services, business rights, and even the threat of deportation.



PRESERVING THE IDENTITY: WHERE DO THEY BELONG



Keep the Ukrainian passport even if/when pushed to get occupational

Donating for Ukrainian army forces support



Keeping the “old” Ukrainian or Crimean Tatar names even if in oral history only



Preserving ethnic minorities history and culture



Singing Ukrainian songs



Listening to Ukrainian radio and alternative news sources



National symbolic

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Taking care of your graves

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Tattoos with national symbols or poetry

Щоденники Мавок в окупації



Easter eggs painting



Embroidery tradition



Celebrating Christmas with the whole globe



Joining the dictation of National Unity from TOT



Providing an alternative education for children

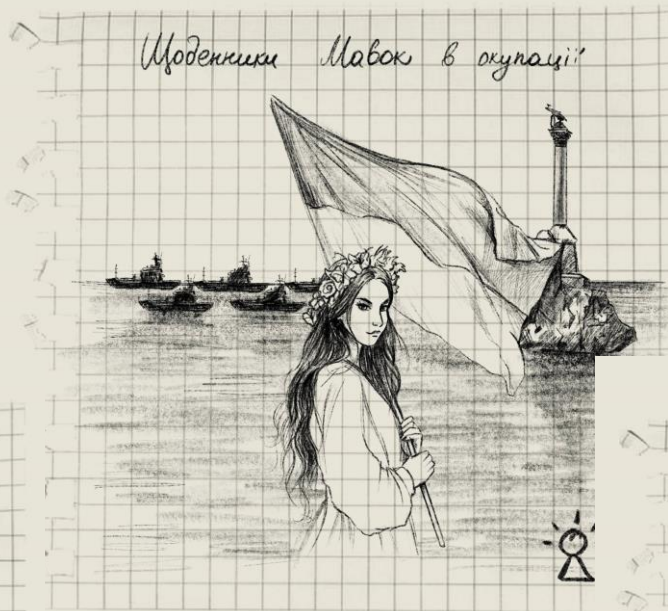


Cooking traditional dishes



Disseminating
posters & self-printed
'real news'
newspapers

Initiating campaigns
on TOT



Keep dreaming
and planning



Keep high level of
security



Use VPN &
access primary
sources
information



**OWN THE NARRATIVE AND
NURTURE YOUR AGENCY AND
TOGETHERNESS**

