



15 March 2022

Anatolii Khromov, Head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine

Dear Mr. Khromov:

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) supports, educates, and advocates for the global community exploring Jewish family history and represents 90 member societies on six continents with a collective membership of more than 10,000 active researchers.

Not only those with Jewish heritage, but the entire international community of people interested in knowing their roots, history, and heritage value accessibility and preservation of historical records documenting the lives of their ancestors. These records are essential as a testimony of the past and essential for self-knowledge, as well as familial and global connection.

The war in Ukraine compounds a humanitarian crisis with the threat of irreplaceable damage to, and destruction of, historical records in the holdings of the State Archival Service of Ukraine.

We in the international community have a duty to protect and preserve the documents of our history and heritage.

We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian archives and its archival professionals and staff, under your leadership, during this tragic invasion and time of crisis. We are making preparations and intend to support the rescue, salvage, and restoration work that will commence once peace in the region is restored.

While cultural sites and monuments can be easy for the eyes of the world to see, less visible, but vital, are the digital and physical assets stored in the dozens of facilities of the State Archival Service. When we lose irreplaceable historical records, it is a profound loss to us all. If we instead work together to protect our history and heritage, we are ensuring the triumph of our humanity. "*Ruach and koach*" (Hebrew for "spirit and strength") as you safeguard and protect yourselves, your families, and the history and heritage of the Ukrainian people and their descendants.

Sincerely,

Jane Rosen Berenbeim
President, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

Cc:

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| David Ferriero | Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) |
| Antony J. Blinken | Secretary of State, US Department of State |
| David Fricker | President, International Councils on Archives (ICA) |
| Audrey Azoulay | Director General, UNESCO |
| Jan Alpert | Records Preservation and Access Coalition (RPAC) |