

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

We, the Lithuanian community in Cyprus, in collaboration with the Community of Ukrainian-Cypriot Friendship, are organizing a very significant event this autumn here in Cyprus. The **Civil Resistance Forum** will take place in Nicosia on **21st September 2024**. Within the next few weeks, the exact location of the event will be announced.

This event would be a **panel discussion** with speakers and moderators from various countries that are considered "friendly countries", that is, countries that condemn the Russian war in Ukraine.

The main aim of the event is to discuss civil resistance which can have many forms and shapes such as social, political and economic aspects. During this event, the main focus will be on **civil resistance in Europe**. Civil resistance cannot be separated from the ongoing Russian **war in Ukraine** and is directly connected to it.

During the event, we will examine Ukrainian examples of civil resistance, and lessons that could be learned from it. Additionally, we will include a discussion about a **common civil resistance strategy** for the European countries. Furthermore, we will discuss the **importance of civilian resistance** in armed conflicts and civil resistance in general, as a powerful way for people to fight for their rights, freedom, and justice.

During the event, we will also invite participants for a discussion about the civil resistance here in Cyprus, exploring the current situation, traces of **Russian influence and disinformation methods**, and how Cypriot communities could be more resistant to outside influence in their country.

At the end of the event, we'll watch a **documentary film** (related to the war in Ukraine), the title of which will be announced later.

We would like to invite **representatives and members of Cypriot, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Polish, United Kingdom, United States, Swedish, Finnish (the list is not exhaustive) communities**, ambassadors, honorary consuls of the above countries, and guest speakers from Lithuania (possibly some other countries as well).

Activists, community leaders and members, scholars, regional experts, policymakers from governments and international organizations, journalists, educators/trainers will be welcomed as guests and speakers in this event to engage together in this powerful and **important conversation**.

At the moment, we are in early organization, talking with possible speakers for the event. We hope that they can offer important topics for discussions that will ultimately shape the final program of our event.

Although still in the early stages of planning, we are confident that this event would create added value in **fostering relations between diaspora organizations in Cyprus**, by providing a platform for exchanging good practices, discussing civil resistance, supporting Ukraine, and raising awareness on this important issue in Cyprus.

We believe that this **event is significant and highly necessary**, because the Russian war in Ukraine is still ongoing, and we have a common and dangerous enemy together with all the participating countries. Therefore, gathering, communicating, and discussing our views and experiences is worthwhile, beneficial, and highly important.

***** This part below could be used for inviting the speakers*****

We would like you to book this date in advance in your calendars and let us know if you would like to be a speaker on any of the below-mentioned topics. If there is another topic that you would like to discuss within the scope of this particular event, let us know as well.

***** This part below could be used if needed*****

Furthermore, we would be grateful for the contacts of your country's community representatives here in Cyprus and for any suggestions in regard to the speakers or invitees. While we are initiators of the event, we would like to make it truly a joint opportunity for all the other communities to meet, connect and discuss!

Preliminary topics for discussion:

1. Strategies of Civil Resistance in Ukraine: Lessons Learned
2. Disinformation and Propaganda: Combatting External Influences
3. The Legal Framework of Civil Resistance: Rights and Limitations
4. Building International Solidarity and Support Networks
5. Media's Role in Civil Resistance: Reporting and Ethics
6. Civil Resistance in Cyprus: Historical and Present Perspectives
7. Community Building and Grassroots Organizing for Resistance
8. Contributions of the Cyprus Diaspora to Civil Resistance
9. Nonviolent Resistance: Philosophies and Tactics
10. The Role of Education in Fostering a Culture of Resistance
11. The Impact of International Organizations on Civil Resistance
12. Civil Resistance in the Times of War Conflicts
13. Laying a Groundwork for a Common Civil Resistance Strategy
14. Support for Ukraine: How can we help in Cyprus?