

PEOPLE
OF THE NEW
REGIONS

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THE FOUNDATION
FOR THE STUDY
OF DEMOCRACY



Yulia Krivtsova,
Teacher of Psychology,
Donetsk, DPR

«I am proud to say that I am a citizen of the Russian Federation. I grew up in Donetsk and I am grateful to Russia for the fact that I can live here, think and speak Russian. From my earliest childhood when I woke up to the sound of Moscow chimes, I felt myself a part of my huge country. At school I studied history and understood what heroic deed our grandfathers had done during the Great Patriotic War. The most

important thing is my Orthodox faith, which combines in my heart all the traditions of Russian Orthodox identity. How can one give that up? How can one live without it?

A thousand times no to what was and is happening in Ukraine. The systems of education and medicine were in decline. Housing and utilities and roads were partially destroyed. Mines and schools were closing. People were left without jobs and without means of subsistence. During the independence of Ukraine, all forces were squeezed out of the rich industrial region and no funds were invested, which shows the complete absence of any support in the past years from the Ukrainian regime.

The Ukrainian language was imposed in schools, textbooks were imported, and manuals were imported that clearly promoted hatred of Russia. History was distorted and tolerance of European values was instilled. But Donbass has been and will continue to be a place of heroism in labour, in combat and ideologically.

Having returned home to Russia after painfully long years of loss, grief and devastation, we see invaluable support for the inhabitants of the Donetsk People's Republic. Destroyed kindergartens and schools are being rebuilt, children's sports complexes and playgrounds are being restored, new equipment, new textbooks and office equipment are being provided».



Sergey, Teacher of Mathematics,
town of Genichesk,
Kherson region, Russia

«After the Russians came in the town, they began to renovate schools, universities and museums. The park was restored. Salaries and pensions have been increased, and the selection of products in the shops was expanded. There was no such a big choice of goods when we were under Ukraine.

Young people have got lots of different movements and organizations. They practically do not have any extra time for activities that would negatively affect their development. Now as part of Russia, everything will go only in a positive direction. It is clear that the city is improving rapidly. We could not even expect it so fast. Under Ukraine we have never seen such a rapid development».



**Nadezhda, a pensioner,
village Novobogdanovka,
Zaporozhye region, Russia**

«It became easier to live as part of Russia. When we were part of Ukraine, I didn't have enough money at all. As soon as I received my pension I spent it on communal services, that's it. Now it is much easier for me. I have clothes and shoes, and I pay the utility bills. I have enough money for everything. When it was Ukraine, I was diagnosed with cataract, but I couldn't get it done. Now I have already had it done for free.

On the 9th of May I used to always wear a St George ribbon. I walked carrying a photo of my grandfather who perished at the front during the Great Patriotic War. Under Ukraine I was not allowed to do so».



**Mikhail Gladkov, Director of the Derkul'sky
Horse Breeding Stud-Farm, city of Lugansk,
Lugansk People's Republic, Russia**

«I am the Director of the Donbass Horse Breeding Stud-Farm and the Head of the

Yunarmiya (Army Youth) Headquarters in the Leninsky district. For the first time in 30 years we have received a new equipment: new tractors, seeders, everything for cultivating the land and crops. Currently the Derkul'sky Horse Breeding Stud-Farm can independently do all this on its own. You can say that under Ukraine we hardly survived. Now we have such horses that we haven't had for a long time. These are Arabian horses.

We have launched this line. We also got horses from the Moscow region. The horse population is growing every day. We've started improving our territory. We started repairing buildings and premises of the farm. Our territory is quite big, thousands of square metres. This has not happened for decades under Ukraine.

Nobody was interested in improvement. Everything was criminalized. The money that the Horse Breeding Stud-Farm earned did not stay in the farm. For two years we did not have salaries. Now we are doing well. We earn good salaries. Some horse grooms earn over 150,000 roubles. We have a full social package. We have restored the canteen, which was probably working last time back in the 1990-s. People have meals for free. It is quite important.

Yunarmiya (Army Youth) is a patriotic education of children. It allows children to plunge into the life of Russia not only at school, but also to visit many places in Russia in order to learn and develop, to explore their interests and identify what children want to do in life.

This generation under Ukraine grew up in lies, in the mass of negativity that surrounded them.

Under Ukraine it was necessary to find an enemy. Thank God, everything has changed so fundamentally».



**Marianna Demidova, Headmistress of
School No 48, city of Donetsk,
Donetsk People's Republic, Russia**

«After we became part of Russia everything changed very much in a positive way. We remember the day of the referendum, when we were at the polling stations. We saw our students with their parents. They walked happily, waiting for this long-awaited moment to become part of Russia. These are not just beautiful words. It was a holiday «with tears in people's eyes».

Everyone had been waiting for this moment for a very long time. Returning back home after a long time is always a very emotional and joyful event.

A lot has changed in education system. New perspectives opened for both teachers and students. There are new forms and types of education, which are written in the Law on Education of the Russian Federation.

First of all, secondary education has become more accessible. Then teachers have access to the professional development. We are very grateful to the Russian Ministry of Education, that at the first stage it allowed teachers to get a purposeful professional development course on an absolutely free basis.

A great many teachers have been retrained according to the federal state educational standards. This was new for us. In addition to that we provided for many teachers of the Ukrainian language and literature an opportunity to get a second education and to get retraining in another subject.

The range of services for schoolchildren has become larger. For example, attendance of clubs and societies and other additional education. There are a lot of opportunities for certain categories of children. For example, gifted children and children with disabilities. They can now receive different forms of services and education.

We can combine both family education and education in educational institutions. It can accelerate education. In Ukraine, we could only talk about the form of externship, which, in principle, gave the opportunity to receive secondary general education for students who had completed 9 grades. But we could not even dream about taking exams and intermediate attestations or have different forms of exams or other nuances. Also our school building and subject classrooms are equipped with the latest technology. I'll tell you, when it was Ukraine and I came to the post of the headmaster in this school, there were no chemistry or physics classrooms.

We didn't have any equipment. Today thanks to the Russian federal programmes, we have digital labs for classes of natural sciences. We have biology, physics and chemistry classrooms. We got four subject classrooms, state-of-the-art equipment, and robotics kits. We also have a fully equipped canteen with the latest technology. It was simply impossible to dream of such things in Ukraine».



Igor Kachur, Chairman of the Public Chamber of the Kherson region, town of Genichesk, Kherson region, Russia

«In the recent past I was a member of the Union of Journalists of Ukraine, a writing journalist and a war correspondent from 1992. After the arrival of Russia, our life changed for the better very much. One could say that it changed radically.

Before the return of the Russian troops and Russia itself to the Kherson territory, normal and adequate people who lived here felt some kind of hopelessness. It was because there was no future. Not for some distant generation, but even the nearest one. I could not see any constructive future. It was very hard and painful to think about the future of children and grandchildren.

In Russia we began to see future again, it became constructive. There are new opportunities.

No one on Russian territory and in the Russian information space will try to degrade and divide our children. No one will impose on them those destructive European values that lead to the destruction of families, destruction of the concept of friendship, comradeship, of normal healthy interaction or even healthy competition within some kind of a collective.

By bringing up our children in our traditions and in our information space, we bring back our present civilization and as a consequence our future. Everything should be done for this purpose. I believe that the first steps have been taken.

The education system and its infrastructure are being revived. The image of our cities and the communications network are being revived as well. People begin to see that finally the country is again interested in the Kherson region.

People no longer feel abandoned, forgotten or even sold into slavery. Earlier we felt that we were slowly but surely being taken to Anglo-Saxon or American-English slavery by Ukraine. It was a spiritual and physical slavery.

Our people were taught to think that if they wanted to earn money, they should go to Poland or Germany and there they should have to work in the field of unskilled labour. It did not matter what your qualifications were and what kind of a specialist you were.

So here in Ukraine there was a complete devaluation of human intelligence, capabilities and experience. Young people looked at their parents who with their professors' degrees worked somewhere on a construction site in Poland, and realized that there was no point in getting degree in education. But now we brought back our faith in Russia as our country».



**Marina Malkhosyan, Teacher,
Lugansk, Lugansk People's Republic,
Russia**

«I am a teacher of School №20 in Lugansk. I teach social studies and law. Under Ukraine Lugansk was like a stiff leg. You know, when there's no sense of life in the leg, and then at some point, when the leg stretches out, the life starts flowing into the leg and it starts to move. That is exactly the same impression which I have now.

As soon as we became part of the Russian Federation, life started to flow in. Sports grounds began to open, schools began to be repaired, a large number of textbooks arrived, and a lot of attention is being paid to education. For those 20 years that we were part of Ukraine, the city used the resource, which was laid down under the Soviet Union. No one invested in culture.

During 10 years of war, a whole generation of children has grown up who don't know how to live without war. Now it feels like we are at home and it is good.

Russia is our home. We are absolutely Russian in spirit, although we have different nationalities. That is why we have survived these 10 years of war with Ukraine».



**Ilya Ostankovich, Doctor,
town of Genichesk,
Kherson region, Russia**

«As part of Russia, the situation in our health care system is changing for the better. A lot of new equipment was brought into the hospital. When Ukraine was in power, there was nothing at all. The wards were shabby. The only equipment was just monitors in the intensive care units. Oxygen was a big problem. Medication was purchased at the expense of patients.

Now thrombolytics have been provided free of charge for acute conditions though these drugs are very expensive. Under Ukraine there was nothing of this kind. There were no medications for stroke patients. With the medical reform that was announced by the Ukrainian minister, the American Ulyana Suprun, the level of deaths increased dramatically.

I have just had a case. I was receiving a patient at the emergency room. An ambulance brought in a couple. A woman had an acute cerebral hemorrhage. The clinic sent her straight from the emergency room to the CT scanner. Her husband said to me, «Doctor, how much do I owe you? I said, «Nothing».



**Aleksander Tishchenko, Deputy Chief Doctor
of the City Hospital No.2, town of Gorlovka,
Donetsk People's Republic, Russia**

«There's a big difference in Russia from what it was under Ukraine. It was hard there. As soon as I came to work in the hospital, I was outraged by the fact that there were practically no medicines in the hospital. I had to turn to relatives, patients who came in with requests for painkillers, bandages, anaesthetics, painkillers and bandages. In those when patients were brought in who had no relatives or money. I had to take my wallet, go to

the pharmacy and buy what needed for the emergency care.

Since we became the Russian Federation, we have our colleague doctors coming here. They advise, help and teach us about new things in our profession. They come from Moscow and other regions of Russia. This was not the case in Ukraine. We could not even talk about having someone from the Kiev region to help us.

Now we get consultations via telemedicine. We provide data on patients and receive extensive counselling with recommendations on the management of patients. The consultations involve both professors and Candidates of Sciences. Transfer of patients to a higher level in other regions of Russia are resolved. After we became part of Russia, we felt that we are one people. We are together with the Russian people, we are the Russian people and we have returned to our «harbor».



**Alina, student,
city of Melitopol,
Zaporozhye region**

«I worked at the post office in Melitopol when I was in Ukraine. Now I'm a university student, studying economics at the faculty of economics.

After joining Russia, they started to build kindergartens and schools, and to develop the city infrastructure. A lot of job opportunities and different exciting jobs emerged. I noticed it when I was looking for a job. There's been a significant change in the salary. The wages have changed significantly, they've

become much bigger. There is a substantial, decent labour payment. Earlier under Ukraine the wages were small.

We have already become Russia, a big country. I've been waiting for this for a long time. It's getting better now, and it's going to get even better. We have returned to our harbour».



**Alexander Popov, Deputy of the Youth Parliament,
Member of the Youth Parliament, town of
Gorlovka, Donetsk People's Republic, Russia.**

«When we became part of Russia, things got a lot better. Under Ukraine everything was paid for. Now under Russia it's all free and everyone can realize oneself. I work out at the physical club «Spartans».

It is thanks to Russia, which has taken us under its wing, I am a member of the Youth Parliament. When we joined Russia, we got more opportunities. Now every young person can realize him or herself in any sphere.

In the Russian Federation young people are given a lot of attention. This was not the case in Ukraine.

Now there are more budget places in institutes for young people, more young people can be trained in their profession. In Ukraine not everyone could afford to fulfil their dream and study. They had to pay money or there was no chance to get a degree».



**Ruslan, student, city of Melitopol,
Zaporozhye region,
Russia**

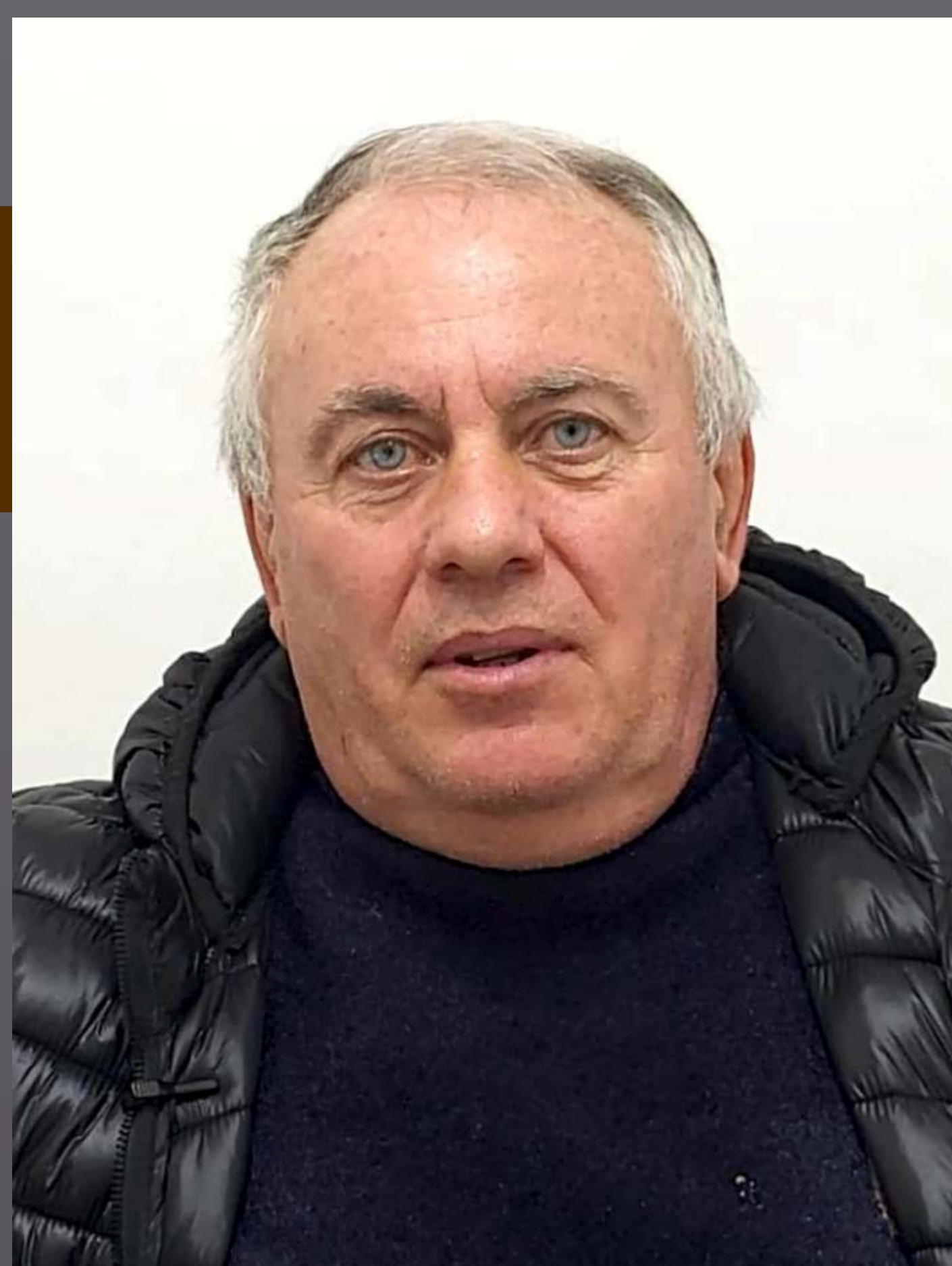
«I'm a student studying at the Faculty of Management. The opportunity came only after we became part of the Russian Federation. There was no opportunity under Ukraine. it was all for a fee. At the moment it is free of charge.

In Ukraine I was asked for a bribe of several thousand dollars. Now I got in completely for free, without any problems. We are getting an education.

After the arrival of Russia, the situation became much better. They started to build roads and to bring the city up to standard. The criminal situation has improved, law enforcement agencies are working. At least it's no longer scary to walk down the street, in the expectation that there will be drug addicts.

Now it's possible to just call the police, to call the patrol service. The city is being improved. It has become more beautiful.

I even have an acquaintance who came back. He went to Germany at the beginning of the war. He says he doesn't recognize the city, he says it's better. It's not such a problem to find a job. In Germany Ukrainians are treated badly. For them it's like an inferior society».



**Sergey Karin, Machinist,
town of Tokmak, Zaporozhye region,
Russia**

«After 2014 Ukrainian military could stop you at a roadblock and take your money. They were rude and often drunk. Once they took meat at the sausage factory, but did not pay any money. They did it again and took 20 tonnes of meat and again did not pay at all.

There was a fine monument to Lenin in our town. The Ukrainians took it down. They also took down a monument to the partisans of the Great Patriotic War. They destroyed everything they wanted in our town.

After Russia came along, life changed for the better. Pensioners began to receive pensions. It is not big, but still more than it was under Ukraine. A pensioner now can buy clothes and meat. The parks are being cleaned up, everything is put in order. Monuments are being restored. The monument to the partisans has been restored completely 100% and stands beautifully decorating the town. Medicine is now free of charge. Children go to school. Everything will get better and we will be fine».



**Alexander Unger, Entrepreneur,
city of Lugansk, Lugansk People's
Republic, Russia**

«I have lived in the city of Lugansk for 30 years. I am a participant of the movement "Donbass Russian Spring". I am a participant of combat operations. Now I'm engaged in commercial activities developing, the production of furniture. Under Ukraine, practically all production was destroyed. Even giant factories that Donbass was once famous for, have been destroyed.

As part of Russia, our life has changed a lot. Our roads are being repaired and water supply improved. Before now people got water on a schedule. Now it's practically running around the clock. The quality of people's lives have changed significantly for the better. We are finally a state governed by law. We know our laws and the course and algorithms of our actions. Improvements are being made in both the sphere of education and economics. Regarding social issues, in almost all areas there is global improvement and change».



Alena Karpishina,
Public sector worker, town of Tokmak,
Zaporozhye region, Russia

«After becoming part of Russia things have changed for better. There are many pensioners, and single mothers with children, who used to receive very little money under Ukraine. They could not afford anything, but now they can. Sanatoriums for children are free of charge. There are more hospitals for children. Medical tests and ultrasound, which was not available in Ukraine before, are now free of charge. When it was Ukraine,

you had to pay for all this.

Pensioners can now eat normally. They don't have to count every rouble in order to pay for the communal services. More parks and kindergartens were opened. My child goes to kindergarten. It's completely free. There is a very good food there. Children learn a lot. On New Year my child brought a toy and other gifts. She was very surprised and happy. When she picked up a big pile of candies, she said, 'Mum, it's all mine. I love how things changed. It is much easier and better to live now than in Ukraine.'»

Our park was neglected under Ukraine. Now it is going to be rebuilt. It is already started to be restored. It was cleaned and bushes were trimmed. Janitors go around and clean everything. We will not recognize our Tokmak in a year. I am sure that everything will only get better».



Alexandra Generozova, a pensioner,
town of Khartsyzsk, Donetsk People's
Republic, Russia

«I am a resident of the town of Khartsyzka, Gornoe neighbourhood. I was once a deputy of the City Council. In 2015 I organized the first group of the Donetsk Republic movement. I have been singing in the 'White Swans' choir for 40 years already.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Russia, to the Novgorod region, who help us to rebuild our city. Under Ukraine nothing was done for the city. Our House of Culture has recently been restored for the first time in 50 years. Our parks and roads have been transformed. Our public utilities are getting improved.

We are grateful to Russia. We waited for it and we are delighted that we are part of Russia. We always said that Donbass was not Ukraine, even when it was the Soviet Union».



Vladimir Ovcharenko, Member of the Presidium of the Veterans' Council, Member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation from the Kherson region, town of Genichesk, Kherson region, Russia

«I am a member of the Presidium of the Veterans' Council. When we were in Ukraine, the veterans were forgotten by their neighbors and God. Now they have joined all other active residents of the Kherson region.

Now our veterans have sprang in to life. They have become interested in life again. They see changes not only in relation to themselves personally, but to their children and grandchildren.

They see that the time has come when they talk without fear and without being worried about their future and the future of their family. They can talk about their life and history. They can pass to their children and grandchildren the stories of their accomplishments, how they worked in their village or city, what they did in the past and what they achieved in life. They can pass their life experience to a younger generation.

Kherson's land is the original Russian land. It has now returned to its native harbour, and the harbour opens its arms to Kherson and embraces it».



Valentina Kiyashko, Teacher, Chairperson of the Lugansk Regional Association of Women's Union, city of Lugansk, Lugansk People's Republic, Russia

«I am a teacher and chairperson of the Lugansk Regional Association of the Women's Union. We joined Russia with great joy. All the teachers were given advanced training courses in very prestigious institutions in Russia. We acquired a lot of educational literature and technology. The school has been supplied with furniture and game equipment. We have not seen such things for many, many years when we were part of Ukraine.

There is a lot of attention paid to women's issues. It refers to active life longevity and issues connected with old age. Women are provided with opportunities not just to live passive life but take active part in the social life of their neighbourhood and town.

A great deal of attention is now being paid to involving women in political life. We have many women in the legislative and executive branches of the government. Women get involved in entrepreneurial and socio-economic activities. This is very important».



**Tatyana Kulikova, Employee of the
Lugansk Museum of Local History,
Lugansk, Russia**

«When we had a referendum on joining Russia, the first to go were the old people, those who had survived the Great Patriotic War. So my mum went. I said, 'Mum, where are you going? She said, to the referendum. She said, Tanya, it's a war. A war that won't be over in four years. It's going to last longer. And we have to vote. Everybody voted for Russia. So the fact that we're here now means that we just came home. Do you

understand? We just came home.

We are not forbidden to speak Russian like in Ukraine. We're not forbidden to go where we want. I have a sister in Ochakov. They are even afraid to talk to their neighbours. In Ochakov people disappeared. They were being taken to police stations and then they were gone.

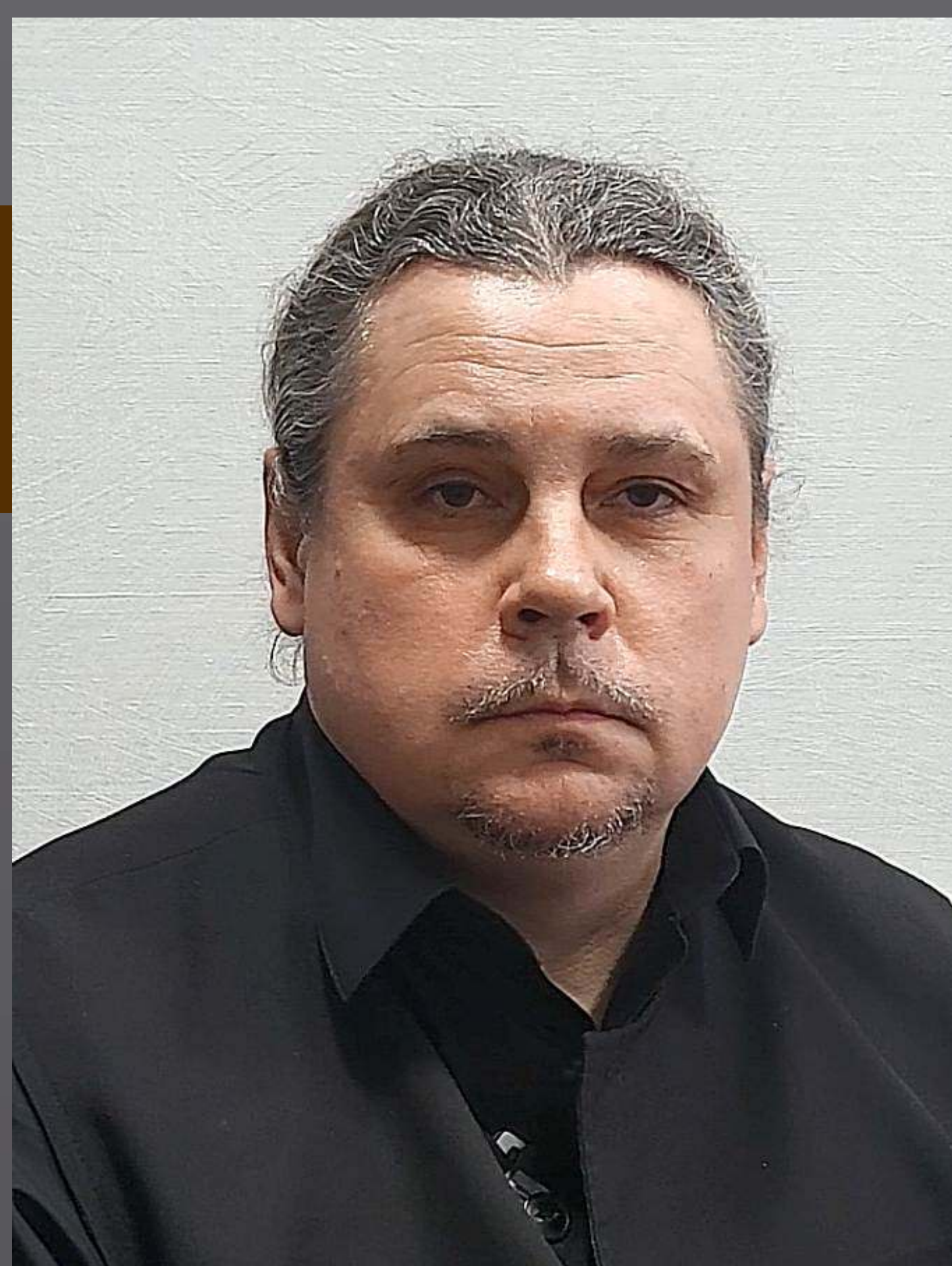
When Russian tanks with Russian red flags came in, everybody froze. People cried with happiness. Russia means everything to us. We can't be without Russia, you know. Russia is everything».



**Yaroslava, Teacher,
town of Genichesk,
Kherson region, Russia**

«The first thing that you can notice as soon as you drive into the town, is infrastructure that has changed for the better. Since the town became part of Russia, the roads have been improved and became proper roads instead of potholes. People can now walk on the roads without problems. Also schools, kindergartens and hospitals are being repaired.

Teachers are paid very well. In Ukraine, my mother worked as a teacher all her life and we had to survive. Now we live normally. My mum works and also gets a second higher education. It is very good that any person can get a second education, and it is free of charge. My sister also studies to become a teacher. In Ukraine, she had a medical education, but since there was corruption everywhere, she could not work in her profession. She did an internship and then they told her: sorry, you're not suitable for us. However, they gave jobs to students who had relatives among those who worked in medical field. My sister was a very good nurse, a paramedic».



**Alexander Ponomarev, Rector of the church,
city of Lugansk, Lugansk People's Republic,
Russia**

«It is very important that today the institution of the church has stability and the prospect of further development. When we were in Ukraine, there was a very difficult situation because of the divergence on many everyday issues which affected people's worldview. In terms of everyday issues, there were different attitudes towards the Russian Federation and towards our world. This is a very important issue.

Now in Russia the offices of any statesmen are open to us. Today we, as churchmen, meet with many government officials and public figures. We are promoting the social concepts of the Russian Orthodox Church in political and uncommercial sector, and also among the social and creative collectives. As the Head of the Department, I deal with these issues. A year and a half ago I created the departments of diocesan co-operation and communication, and the Department of Co-operation between Church and Society, which allows us to bring people to their mental roots. This is Christianity».



**Vladislav Rusanov, Writer, Associate
Professor, Donetsk Technical University,
Donetsk People's Republic, Russia**

«Under Ukraine, higher education was under a lot of pressure to teach in the Ukrainian language. This is despite the fact that Donbas is a completely Russian-speaking region and the people here speak Russian. However, the demand to teach in Ukrainian was strict from Kiev. We were obliged to keep all the documentation in our universities in Ukrainian. Methodological guidelines were exclusively in Ukrainian. Training manuals and

textbooks were published exclusively in Ukrainian language. But the Ukrainian language does not include technical terminology. It was understood in Kiev in the 1990-s. I know for a fact that there was an order for the leading Dnepropetrovsk Mining Institute to create the technical Ukrainian language in the field of mining».