



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia  
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MELBOURNE UKRAINIANS SUPPORT PROTESTORS IN KYIV**

**PRAYER & CANDLE VIGIL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 1PM, UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, 35 CANNING STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE**

As pro-democracy protests in Kyiv, Ukraine escalate, Australian Ukrainians will show their solidarity with a Prayer and Candle Vigil in Melbourne this Saturday.

Australian Federation of Australian Organisations President, Mr Stefan Romaniw OAM, who has been actively involved in Kyiv's demonstrations, will return to Australia on Saturday to take part in the Melbourne vigil.

A short prayer service will be followed by a first-hand update from Mr Romaniw on the situation in Kyiv, and his meeting on Thursday in Ukraine with Australian Ambassador David Stuart.

Mr Romaniw, the former Multicultural Commissioner of Victoria, said: *"In Kyiv, I saw hundreds of thousands of ordinary Ukrainians doing extraordinary things for freedom. In Melbourne, their Australian families and friends gather to pray that Ukraine's future is one of peace and positive change."*

Mr Romaniw is appealing to the Australian Government to publicly condemn State-sanctioned violence and give its support to peaceful and positive change in Ukraine, as Canada, the United States, the European Community and other allies have done.

The vigil follows activity last Thursday, which saw members of the Ukrainian Australian community in Melbourne taking to the steps of the State Library of Victoria in support of their families and friends in Ukraine.

Mr Stefan Romaniw will be available for interview at the conclusion of the service.

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