



**Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
of Ukraine to Australia**

Ref. #61513/26-110-18

**To: Kirk Marcolina**

**Chair of the Board of Antenna Documentary Film Festival**

**CC: Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Ritz Cinemas, Dendy Cinemas**

January 24, 2025

**Dear Mr. Marcolina,**

My name is Vasyl Myroshnychenko, and I am the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the Antenna Festival for its continued commitment to showcasing documentaries that highlight the grave consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The inclusion of such films in recent festivals has been invaluable in raising awareness, and I am particularly appreciative of this year's screening of *Intercepted*, which stands as a powerful example of high-quality documentary filmmaking.

However, I was deeply concerned to learn that the film *Russians at War* has been included in the current festival program. This film, created by a Russian director in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, presents a narrative that violates both Ukrainian and international law. It features interviews with Russian soldiers who are actively involved in the brutal occupation of our land—soldiers who are responsible for the ongoing destruction of Ukrainian towns and villages and the suffering of countless civilians.

Rather than presenting a balanced or objective view, *Russians at War* equates the aggressor with the victim, ultimately serving as a tool of Russian propaganda. The film distorts the reality of the situation, manipulating public perception in a way that undermines Ukraine's sovereignty and the immense human cost of this war.

For many Ukrainians residing in Australia, the public screening of this film would be deeply hurtful and distressing. It also risks providing a platform for Russia to further legitimize its unlawful actions in Ukraine.

In light of these concerns, I kindly ask you, Mr. Marcolina, to reconsider the inclusion of *Russians at War* in the festival program.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience. You can reach me at +61 (0) 452 084 397 or via email at vasy.myroshnychenko@mfa.gov.ua.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Vasyl Myroshnychenko**

**Ambassador**