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**Guardian Angels Ukraine**

Ангели Хоронителі України

*A humanitarian project of the  
League of Ukrainian Canadian Women*

## **CENTRE FOR PSYCHOPHYSICAL REHABILITATION OF SOLDIERS OPENS WITH SUPPORT FROM GUARDIAN ANGELS UKRAINE PROJECT**

April 28, 2015

KYIV, UKRAINE – [A rehabilitation centre](#) providing psychophysical treatment for Ukrainian military servicemen, sponsored by the [Guardian Angels Ukraine Project](#) of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW), was officially opened at the Irpin Military Hospital near Kyiv on April 27, 2015.

The event took place ahead of NATO's three-day International Medical Rehabilitation, Mental Health Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine.

[The presentation of the first phase of the Guardian Angels Ukraine project](#) included a press briefing attended by 39 media outlets, including 13 Ukrainian television broadcasters. The media briefing was chaired by Colonel Dr. Vsevolod Stebliuk, Special Advisor for Medical Matters at Ukraine's [Ministry of Defence](#). Among the speakers addressing the media briefing were Artur Derevyanko (Head of Ukraine's State Service for War Veterans and Participants of the ATO), Andriy Huk (Deputy Director of the Romandanov Institute for Neurosurgery), Oleh Druz (Lead Psychologist of the Ministry of Health), and Olia Chuiko (Founder of the International Association for Support of Ukraine).



Lisa Shymko, Honorary Chair of the Guardian Angels Ukraine Project, and President of the LUCW, spoke on behalf of the Canadian partners of the project.

"In the wake of Russia's massive military onslaught, Ukraine's wounded soldiers have made great sacrifices to defend a European Ukraine and protect the democratic values that we share. Today's event represents a first step in our efforts to assist Ukraine as it confronts enormous challenges in the area of rehabilitation medicine. We cannot ignore the urgent need to improve the rehab services at Ukraine's network of military medical facilities," Lisa Shymko said in her remarks. ( *Next page ...* )



Also representing the project from Canada were Kalyna Kardash, Guardian Angels Ukraine (GAU) Project Coordinator, and Bohdan Cherniawski, one of the project's health care consultants.

"The project is also exploring innovative approaches to psychological therapies for returning Ukrainian servicemen, modelled on outpatient programs for veterans carried out by North American NGOs," said Kalyna Kardash.



Among the new approaches to treatment that will be utilized by the centre at the military hospital is the IREX interactive rehabilitation therapy system, acquired by the project's Canadian partners.

According to Lisa Shymko, "Ukraine is in the process of revamping its education system. Our project will be working closely with the Ukrainian government and academic institutions to establish Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Departments at Ukraine's leading universities, through a Canada-Ukraine knowledge exchange program. Ukraine's military hospitals and health care facilities provide the ideal clinical setting for Ukraine's emerging physiatrists."

The Guardian Angels Ukraine Project has established an Expert Working Group, comprised of leading Ukrainian military and medical experts working in the field of rehabilitation medicine.

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During a special ceremony held at the Irpin Military Hospital, official Certificates of Appreciation from Ukraine's Minister of Defence, Colonel General Stepan Poltorak, were presented to Lisa Shymko (LUCW President and GAU Honorary Chair) and Kalyna Kardash (GAU Project Coordinator), "in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the provision of medical assistance for members of Ukraine's Defence Forces, and their support for Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity."



### **MEDIA LINKS:**

<http://www.radiosvoboda.org/media/video/26981359.html>

<http://www.mil.gov.ua/en/news/2015/04/27/centre-for-psychophysical-rehabilitation-of-ato-soldiers-opened-in-irpin/>

<http://www.mil.gov.ua/news/2015/04/27/v-irpeni-prezentovali-pershij-v-ukraini-centr-psihofizichnoi-reabilitaczii-dlya-postrazhdalih-v-ato--9477/>

<http://www.5.ua/ato-na-shodi/V-Irpin-vidkryto-Tsentr-psykhofizychnoi-reabilitatsii-dlia-biitsiv-ATO-78412.html>

[http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art\\_id=248123348](http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art_id=248123348)

<http://www.mil.gov.ua/news/2015/04/27/u-medichnih-zakladah-minoboroni-medichnu-reabilitacziyu-projshli-ponad-4-tisyachi-bijcziv-zsu--/>

<http://zora-irpin.info/v-irpeni-prezentovali-pershij-v-ukrayini-tsentri-psiho-fizichnoyi-reabilitatsiyi/>

<http://www.unian.net/society/1072156-pod-kievom-otkryili-perviy-v-ukraine-tsentri-psiho-fizicheskoy-reabilitatsii-dlya-postradavshih-v-ato.html>