

March 29, 2022

I try to cry; however, I cannot make the tears fall. I feel sorry for myself, my family, friends, and the state of my homeland. I made the tough decision to leave what is now Ukraine 33 years ago with my two young daughters and make the trek for a better opportunity in the United States. I have watched the country flourish and it is terrible to see the destruction that the war has left on my homeland.

In Ukraine, people are continuing to sit in basements and shelters while I am able to continue to do my job without fear of not having a meal to eat or a bomb suddenly falling from the sky. Every day it is harder for my countrymen to survive. They are living without access to water, food, light, and comforts of their home. Sadly, they cannot even go outside safely due to the constant shelling. Somehow, they find the strength to continue the fight and allow Ukraine to survive. We can help Ukrainian people by continuing to share the stories and discussions of how civilians are being killed.

Ukraine is beautiful. It is rich. It is full of amazing, hardworking people. People who are strong, creative, and brave. People who are and have been fighting for independence for years. People who are dying at the front lines every day because of a person with a delusional view on the world.

Ukrainian cobbled streets, ancient buildings and monuments, breathtaking landscapes and historical landmarks are captivating. Ukrainian clothing is intricate and unique. Ukrainian food is some of the best you'll ever have.

Ukraine has an incredibly rich culture and history, and no one can ever take it away from us. The first mention of Ukraine dates all the way back to the 12th century. We have our own language, flag, cuisine and borders and I hope that it will never change. This is *my* country even though for 33 years I have considered the USA as *my* country. Ukraine will always be *my* mother country as I spent half of my life there.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out during this extremely difficult time. It has been an incredible source of strength for me through all of this. A huge thank you to all the wonderful people who have made donations in my name. Also, thank you to all who want to learn about Ukraine's history. I am unable to be in my county right now and my heart breaks because of it. By sharing my story, I can offer my support and hope that my friends will pass my story along to others.

Your support means the world to me. Ukrainian people will stand and fight for their country. And they will win once again.

Glory to Ukraine ua

– Marsha Shisman