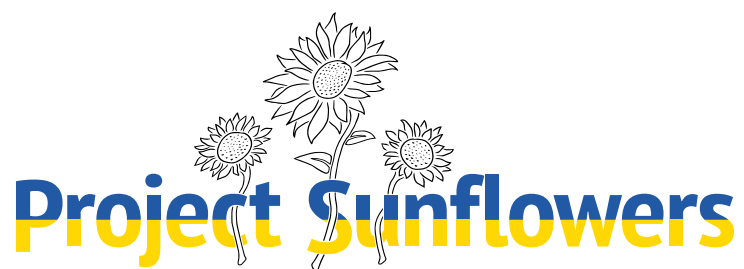


ADVOCACY. EDUCATION. PARTNERSHIPS. SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS.
Foundation Sunflowers Annual Report
for the year 2025



Written by Ewa Hofmańska
Graphics by Maciej Trojanowski

Warsaw 2026

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Foreword by the President of the Foundation Sunflowers

As we present the third annual report of the Sunflowers Foundation, we look back on 2025 as a year of both significant achievements and difficult decisions. Throughout the year, our mission remained unchanged: to support accountability for international crimes committed in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and to promote access to justice for victims.

We began 2025 by strengthening our leadership team with the appointment of Dr. Yevheniia Bondarenko to the Foundation's Board. Her expertise and commitment have already become an invaluable asset to our work and strategic development.

Advocacy remained at the heart of our activities. Throughout the year, we conducted an intensive international advocacy campaign aimed at encouraging decision-makers to maintain unwavering support for the International Criminal Court. This effort was particularly important in 2025, a challenging year for the Court, marked by sanctions imposed by the United States on certain ICC officials and, subsequently, on ICC judges. At a time when the international justice system faced unprecedented political pressure, we consistently raised our voice in defence of the Court's independence and its essential role in ensuring accountability for the gravest crimes.



Throughout 2025, the Sunflowers Foundation became the target of intensified Russian disinformation and propaganda campaigns aimed at discrediting our work and discouraging support for accountability efforts related to the war in Ukraine. While such attacks sought to undermine trust in our activities, they also demonstrated the importance and relevance of the work carried out by independent civil society organizations. We responded by continuing to uphold the principles of transparency, accuracy, and professionalism that guide all our initiatives.

We continued to expand our network of institutional partnerships. In 2025, we formalized cooperation with the Kyiv National Economic University and the Centre for Research on International Crimes at the University of Warsaw. We also entered into a partnership with the National Chamber of Legal Advisers of Poland (KIRP), under which we provided assistance to Ukrainian citizens seeking compensation through the Register of Damage for Ukraine. Education and capacity-building remained among our key priorities. We successfully launched the first course on international criminal law for law students at the Kyiv National Economic University. The course was met with great interest and engagement from students, confirming the growing importance of international criminal law education among future legal professionals in Ukraine.

At the same time, 2025 brought challenges that required difficult choices. In July, due to the lack of stable and sustainable funding, we were forced to suspend our activities related to the collection of information concerning evidence of international crimes and war-related damages in Ukraine. All information gathered to date has been securely encrypted and archived, ready to be reactivated once adequate funding becomes available. While this decision was necessary, it reinforced the urgent need for long-term support for civil society organizations documenting the consequences of armed conflict.

The Foundation remained actively engaged in numerous national and international conferences, expert meetings, and policy discussions dedicated to accountability, transitional justice, and the pursuit of justice for crimes committed in connection with the war in Ukraine. We also continued our series of expert webinars, creating a platform for dialogue among practitioners, academics, and students interested in international criminal justice.

One of the highlights of the year was the recognition of the Foundation's work through the Ewa Bieńkowska Award, granted for contributions to supporting victims of crime. While the award was presented to the Foundation's President, I accept it as a recognition of the dedication, expertise, and commitment of the entire Sunflowers Foundation team and our partners, whose efforts make our work possible every day.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission despite the challenges ahead. We are deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, volunteers, experts, and all those who have placed their trust in our work. Their commitment makes our efforts possible and strengthens our conviction that justice, accountability, and solidarity remain indispensable foundations for lasting peace.

Ewa Hofmaniska

President of the Foundation Sunflowers Executive Board

About the Foundation

The Foundation Sunflowers is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting international justice, supporting victims of armed conflicts, and advancing knowledge of international criminal law and accountability mechanisms.

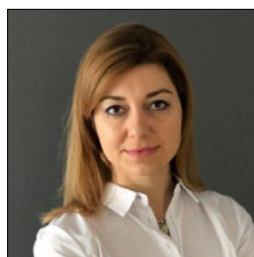
Since its establishment, the Foundation has worked at the intersection of law, education, advocacy, and victim support. Through cooperation with academic institutions, legal professionals, civil society organisations, and international partners, we seek to strengthen access to justice for victims of international crimes and contribute to a better understanding of the legal and social consequences of armed conflicts.

In 2025, the Foundation continued its mission in a challenging international environment marked by ongoing armed conflicts and increasing pressure on institutions responsible for ensuring accountability for international crimes. In response, we focused on advocacy, education, partnership-building, and initiatives supporting victims of the war in Ukraine.

Executive Board Members



Dr Ewa Hofmańska
(President)



Dr Yevheniia Bondarenko

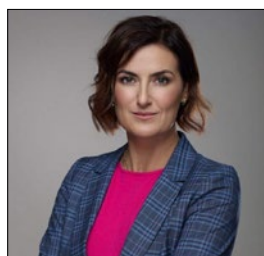


Dr Andriy Kosylo

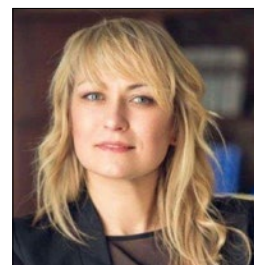
Foundation Sunflowers Council



Prof Paweł Wiliński
(Chairman)



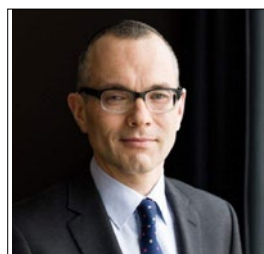
Dr Anna Adamska-Gallant



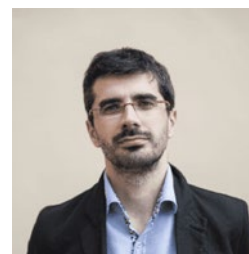
Dr Oksana Senatorova



Natalia Klima-Piotrowska



Mikołaj Pietrzak



Professor Witold Klaus

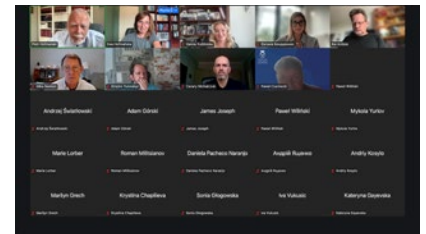
2025 at a Glance

Although 2025 was not defined by large-scale projects, it was an important year of consolidation, institutional development, and strategic engagement.

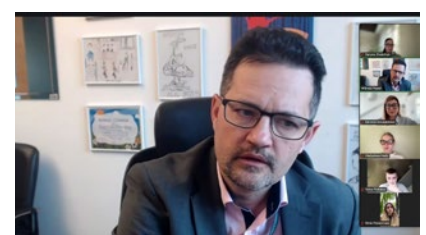
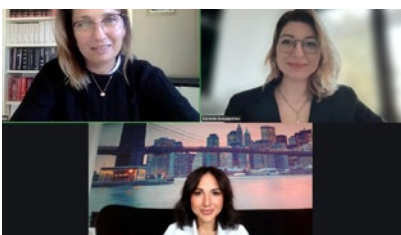
Key highlights of the year included:

- advocacy efforts supporting the independence and work of the International Criminal Court;
- continued activities aimed at supporting victims of the war in Ukraine and promoting access to reparative mechanisms;
- establishment of new partnerships with academic and professional institutions;
- organisation of the first international criminal law course dedicated to Ukrainian students;
- delivery of three expert webinars on issues related to international justice and accountability;
- establishment of the Ewa Bieńkowska Award to recognise outstanding contributions to the study and promotion of international criminal law;
- continued development of educational initiatives and preparation of new programmes to be launched in 2026.

These achievements reflect our commitment to pursuing long-term impact through expertise, cooperation, and sustained engagement.



3 webinars
1 international course
new partnerships
supporting the ICC
support for victims



Defending International Justice

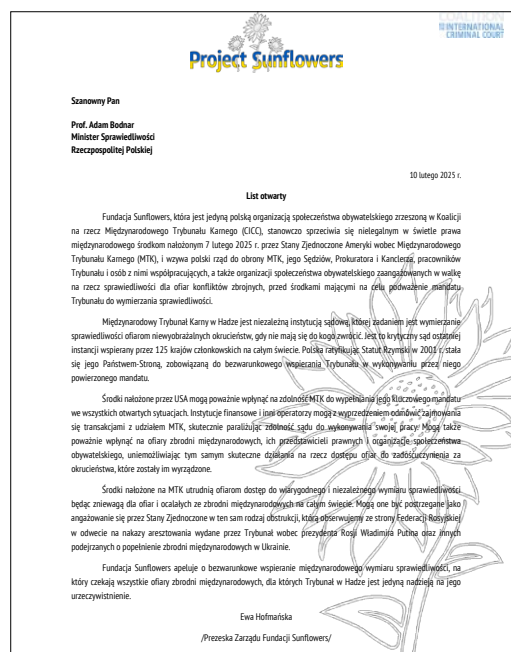
Advocacy for the International Criminal Court

In 2025, the international justice system faced significant challenges. Measures targeting the International Criminal Court and its officials raised concerns among legal professionals, academics, and civil society organisations around the world regarding the protection of judicial independence and the future of international accountability mechanisms.

The Foundation Sunflowers actively participated in advocacy efforts aimed at supporting the Court and reaffirming the importance of an independent international justice system. Through public engagement, cooperation with partner organisations, and participation in expert discussions, we joined a broader international community committed to safeguarding institutions responsible for investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes under international law.

Our activities reflected a longstanding conviction that accountability for international crimes and meaningful access to justice for victims require strong, independent, and effective international institutions.

In 2025, the Foundation joined international advocacy efforts supporting the independence of the International Criminal Court



EU Should Defend the ICC International Criminal Court Under Attack by US, Others

(Brussels, April 4, 2025) – The [European Union](#) should defend the International Criminal Court (ICC) amid serious attacks on its mandate and mission, 58 nongovernmental groups said today. These attacks could undermine justice for victims of serious international crimes around the world, making urgent EU action to uphold the international rules-based order.

The ICC is the cornerstone of a broader system for accountability, acting as a court of last resort when other avenues to justice are blocked. The recent [arrest](#) and transfer of former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to face a charge of crimes against humanity before the ICC reaffirms the Court's relevance and underscores its significance in ensuring accountability for the most serious crimes.

The EU and its member states have long been strong advocates for the ICC and have made [legally binding commitments](#) to promote the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute, the Court's founding treaty. The EU has [pledged](#) to support the ICC's independence, cooperation with the Court, and the implementation of the principle of complementarity, which ensures that the ICC acts only when national authorities do not genuinely investigate and prosecute, as appropriate, international crimes. This firm support has been essential to the ICC's functioning since its establishment more than 20 years ago.

US President Donald Trump issued an [executive order](#) on February 6, 2025, [authorizing](#) the use of asset freezes and entry bans on ICC officials and others supporting the Court's work. US sanctions targeting the ICC are an affront to victims and their families. Sanctions are never meant for prosecutors, judges, and others pursuing independent and impartial justice for core international crimes.

The US [designated](#) ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan for sanctions under the February 6 order and could issue additional designations in a bid to undermine ICC investigations it opposes. US financial sanctions have serious effects that go far beyond those targeted, and could result in the Court losing access to essential services necessary to carry out its mandate. The order appears designed not only to intimidate Court officials and staff involved in the Court's critical investigations, but also to have a chilling effect on broader cooperation with the ICC, including by civil society organizations supporting victims.

While [most EU member states](#) have condemned the US sanctions in [national and joint statements](#), the EU as a whole has yet to express its opposition in an official statement, in stark contrast to its [clear positions](#) following the imposition of similar sanctions by the first Trump administration in 2020. [Expression of support for the ICC's mandate is welcome](#), but the EU should also clearly denounce US sanctions on the Court, signal that they will not go unaddressed, and call on the US to rescind the executive order.

The EU should, without further delay, make use of the [Blocking Statute](#) to counter the US sanctions. This instrument aims to shield European operators from the effects of extraterritorial sanctions and could help ensure that the Court's work can continue unaffected. The European

Stanowisko Koalicji na rzecz Ofiar, Ocalałych i Świadków (KOOS) w odniesieniu do Uchwały Rady Ministrów w sprawie 80-tej rocznicy wyzwolenia obozu Auschwitz-Birkenau

Szanowny Panie Premierze, Szanowni członkowie i członkinie polskiego Rządu,

Koalicja na rzecz Ofiar, Ocalałych i Świadków (KOOS), złożona z organizacji działających na rzecz praw ofiar i ocalałych ze zbrodni międzynarodowych, pragnie wyrazić swoje stanowisko wobec uchwały Rady Ministrów w sprawie planowanych uroczystości 80. rocznicy wyzwolenia Byłego Niemieckiego Naziistowskiego Obozu Koncentracyjnego i Zagłady Auschwitz-Birkenau w Oświęcimiu, ogłoszonej w dniu 9 stycznia 2025 roku, oraz towarzyszących jej wypowiedzi przedstawicieli rządu. Jako organizacje zajmujące się obroną praw osób, które stały się ofiarami zbrodni międzynarodowych, w tym zbrodni wojennych, zbrodni przeciwko ludzkości, zbrodni agresji czy ludobójstwa, pragniemy stanowczo podkreślić znaczenie przestrzegania przez Polskę międzynarodowych zobowiązań, które wykraczają poza jednorazowe deklaracje i wymagają konsekwentnego działania, szczególnie w kontekście naszej roli na arenie międzynarodowej.

Polska, jako członek Unii Europejskiej oraz sygnatariusz kluczowych międzynarodowych traktatów, w tym Statutu Rzymskiego Międzynarodowego Trybunału Karnego, zobowiązała się do przestrzegania zasady odpowiedzialności za zbrodnie prawa międzynarodowego. Działania rządu, które wydają się podważać te zasady, mają nie tylko wewnętrzne konsekwencje, ale także wpływ na naszą pozycję na świecie. Polska pełni obecnie prezydencję w Radzie Unii Europejskiej i w Biurze Zgromadzenia Państw Stron Statutu Rzymskiego. Tym bardziej decyzje rządu nie są bez znaczenia dla utrzymania stabilności systemu międzynarodowego prawa karnego, który jest podstawą pokoju, sprawiedliwości i ochrony praw człowieka.

Zbliżające się obchody 80-tej rocznicy wyzwolenia Auschwitz-Birkenau stanowią wyjątkowy moment do oddania hołdu ofiarom zbrodni wojennych i ludobójstwa, których tragiczną historię Polska pamięta i przekazuje światu. Jednakże pozwolenie na udział w tych obchodach osobom, na których ciąży poważne oskarżenia o zbrodnie wojenne i naruszenia praw człowieka, niezależnie od kraju, z którego pochodzą, jest sprzeczne z wartościami, jakie Polska, jako kraj z bolesną historią wojenną, powinna nieustannie promować.

Fundacja Sunflowers
Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka
Polish Center for Torture Survivors

Supporting Victims of the War in Ukraine

Supporting victims of the war in Ukraine remained one of the Foundation's key priorities in 2025.

We continued to promote available mechanisms designed to facilitate future reparations and compensation for individuals affected by the war. Particular attention was devoted to raising awareness of the Register of Damage for Ukraine and opportunities available to potential claimants.

In this context, the Foundation established cooperation with the National Chamber of Legal Advisors of Poland (KIRP) to support legal professionals assisting individuals preparing submissions to the Register of Damage.

During the year, the Foundation also reviewed its existing technological tools and decided to suspend the operation of its documentation application. This decision reflected the changing needs of beneficiaries and the evolving ecosystem of accountability and documentation initiatives. While the application was suspended, the Foundation remained actively engaged in efforts aimed at supporting victims and promoting access to justice.

We remain committed to ensuring that the voices and experiences of victims continue to inform discussions on accountability, reparations, and post-conflict recovery.



Building Knowledge and Future Experts

Education has always been a central pillar of the Foundation's mission.

In 2025, we organised the first edition of a specialised course in international criminal law dedicated to Ukrainian students. The programme was designed to provide participants with practical and academic insights into international criminal justice, accountability mechanisms, and contemporary challenges arising from armed conflicts.

The Foundation also organised three expert webinars bringing together practitioners and scholars working in the fields of international law, human rights, and accountability. These events provided a platform for discussion, knowledge-sharing, and professional exchange among participants from different countries and backgrounds.



Maria, 1st Year Master's Student in Public Law:

"Truly grateful for the opportunity and the incredible useful and timely experience. It was fascinating to hear from such qualified and respected experts."



Polina, 4th Year Bachelor's Student in Law:

"Meeting such authoritative and professional speakers was a real source of inspiration and knowledge. The course program opened new horizons for my professional growth."



Yulia, 1st Year Master's Student in Public Law:

"The course topic is highly relevant today, and the program was extremely rich and informative."



Recognition of the Foundation's Impact

In 2025, the President of the Foundation Executive Board, Ewa Hofmańska, was honoured with the Ewa Bieńkowska Award granted by the Foundation for Assistance to Victims of Crime.

The Award recognised her contribution to establishing and developing the Project Sunflowers, which has become a comprehensive support initiative for victims of the war in Ukraine. The distinction acknowledged efforts undertaken to create mechanisms enabling victims to document war crimes and human rights violations, as well as the development of a secure system for reporting crimes and preserving information relevant to future accountability processes.

The Award also recognised activities aimed at raising awareness of the rights of victims of armed conflict and fostering greater public sensitivity to the human consequences of war.

While the distinction was awarded personally, it reflects the collective efforts of many individuals, experts, volunteers, and partners who have contributed to the Foundation's work since the launch of the Sunflowers initiative. We are grateful for this recognition and view it as an encouragement to continue supporting victims and promoting accountability for international crimes.



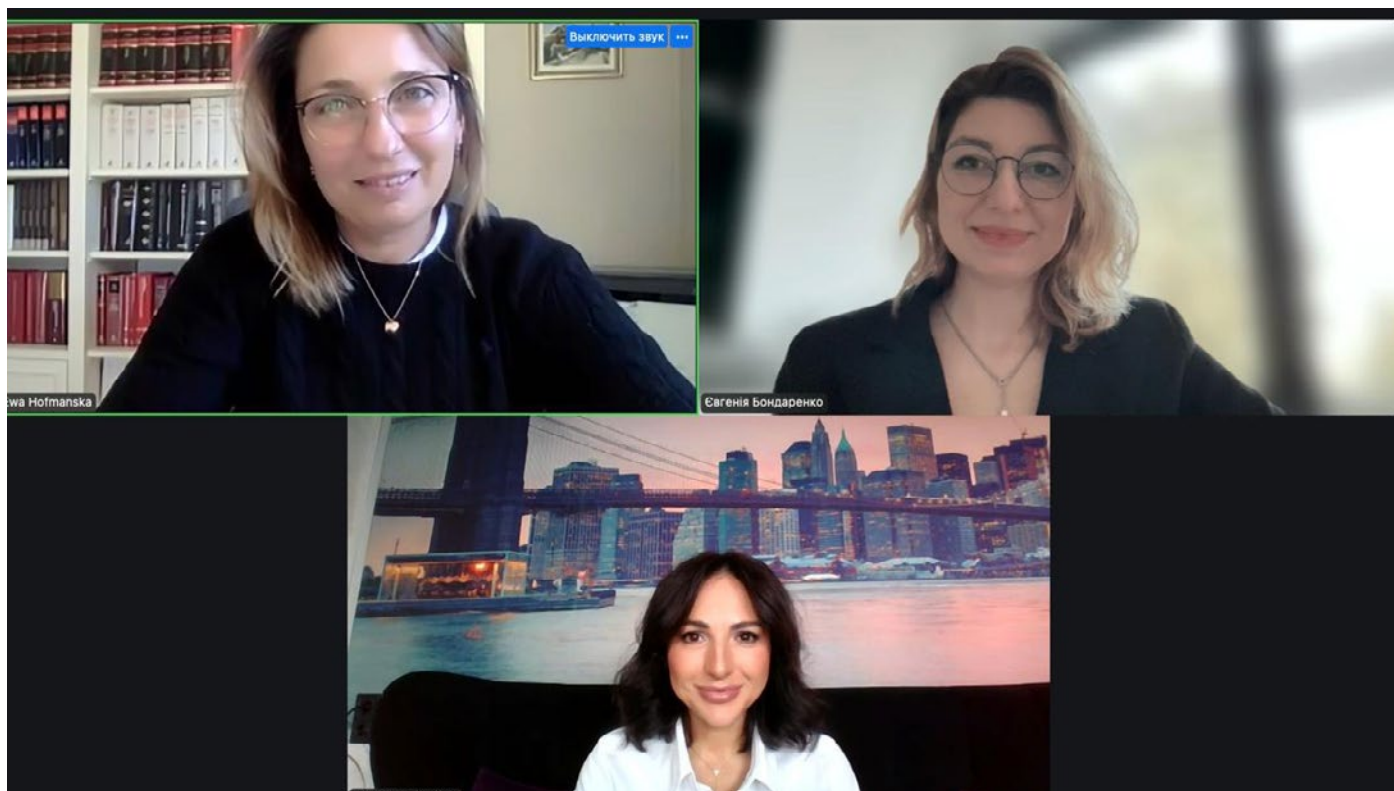
Building Partnerships

Meaningful cooperation remains fundamental to achieving the Foundation's objectives.

In 2025, we expanded our network of institutional partners and established new collaborations with academic and professional organisations. These included cooperation with Kyiv National Economic University, the Centre for Research on International Crimes at the University of Warsaw, and the National Chamber of Legal Advisors of Poland.

These partnerships strengthen the Foundation's ability to combine academic expertise, practical experience, and outreach activities. They also create new opportunities for educational initiatives, research projects, and support programmes benefiting victims and legal professionals.

The Foundation is grateful to all partners whose expertise, commitment, and trust contribute to the achievement of our shared goals.



Looking Ahead

The year 2025 laid important foundations for future growth.

In 2026, the Foundation will continue to develop educational programmes, strengthen international partnerships, support initiatives benefiting victims of armed conflicts, and contribute to discussions on international criminal justice and accountability.

We remain committed to promoting justice, supporting victims, and investing in the next generation of professionals dedicated to the rule of law and human dignity.

Supporting Our Mission

The Foundation Sunflowers remains an independent organisation committed to supporting victims of armed conflicts, promoting international justice, and advancing education in international criminal law.

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of individuals who contribute their expertise on a pro bono basis, as well as the trust and support of our institutional partners and private donors.

In 2025, members of the Foundation's Board continued to perform their duties on a voluntary basis. This commitment allows us to direct our resources towards activities that advance our mission and create meaningful impact.

We are grateful to all organisations, experts, volunteers, and donors who have supported our work throughout the year. Their contribution enables us to respond to emerging challenges, develop educational initiatives, advocate for international justice, and support victims seeking accountability and redress.

We welcome opportunities to cooperate with institutions and individuals who share our commitment to justice, human dignity, and the rule of law.



www.reportwarcrime.org



contact@projectsunflowers.org



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/projectsunflowers/>

Support Our Work

To learn more about opportunities for cooperation, partnership, or financial support, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission.