From:

Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (Southern Regions) office@uanzsouth.org.nz

To:

Alice Cinema & Film Specialists info@alice.co.nz

Sent by e-mail 15 June 2024

Open Letter - Call on Alice Cinema Management to Stop Russian Propaganda

We, the Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (Southern Regions), are writing to you as a public organization which represents New Zealanders of Ukrainian origin. We are committed to promote the good name of Ukraine within New Zealand to protect it from misuse and slander. It has come to our attention that <u>your cinema is planning to screen</u> the so-called 'documentary' "The Other Side – World Premiere" as a part of DocEdge film festival.

We, the Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (Southern Regions), strongly and urgently protest the decision to screen the upcoming 'documentary', which we believe contains obvious propagandist narratives with attempts to legitimise unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine, humanise the aggressor and whitewash its war crimes.

In our call, we join the Embassy of Ukraine in Australia and New Zealand and its <u>official Press Statement</u> about "Ukraine's War. The Other Side." screening stating that this program "unquestioningly repeated and aired countless blatant lies, historical distortions, racist claims and propaganda narratives emanating from the Kremlin". We believe that echoing Kremlin lies in New Zealand is not a balanced view from the 'other side', but an unambiguous attempt to aid the Russian Federation in its brutal invasion of a sovereign country and to vindicate all the atrocities committed by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

To gain insights, we encourage readers of this letter to acquaint themselves with the article <u>"Ukraine's War: The Other Side" — A Propagandist's View, Not Balanced Journalism</u> by Roman Kulish. In our strong opinion, it provides a most thorough analysis of the "Ukraine's War. The Other Side." 'documentary' content, systematically debunking its misinformation and exposing journalistic failures of authors.

We urge Alice Cinema administration to take immediate action to cancel the screening of this film. We trust that your cinema will prioritize the interests of the Christchurch community over serving as a platform for propaganda from a fascist Russian dictatorship, which constantly and openly threatens to destroy the civilized world. Additionally, we kindly request a public apology from the cinema's administration for what we hope was an unintentional mistake.

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