

УДК 940.5 (477)''1932/1933'':314.156.5  
DOI: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-28-Капустян

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**Bibliographic Description of the Article:** Kapustyan, H. (2022). Enlightening mission of WIT (WORLD INFORMATION TRANSFER) in disclosure of the truth about the 1932-1933 Holodomor-genocide in Ukraine. *Ukrainskyi Selianyn. [Ukrainian peasant]*, 28, 34-40. (In English). doi: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-28-Kapustyan

### ENLIGHTENING MISSION OF WIT (WORLD INFORMATION TRANSFER) IN DISCLOSURE OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1932-1933 HOLODOMOR-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

**Abstract.** *The purpose of the article is to analyse the WIT enlightening mission in terms of posing the problem of the 1932-1933 Holodomor-genocide of the Ukrainian nation at the international level, informing the world public about the genocide by famine organized by the Soviet totalitarian regime, involving recognized political, public experts, and statesmen in the discussion about the tragedy of the world scale which is a crime against humanity and humankind, as well as the use of their applied conclusions in the educational process of educational institutions.*

**Conclusion.** *It has been established that the active use of materials, conclusions, and recommendations of the WIT Conferences dedicated to the organized 1932-33 Holodomor-genocide in the educational process contributes to the transformation of factual knowledge into theoretical one. Analysis of the forms and methods of informing the world public about the crime of the Soviet totalitarian regime, the 1932-33 Holodomor-genocide, the involvement of recognized political, public experts, and statesmen in the discussion about the tragedy of a global scale which is a crime against humanity and humankind contributes to the meaningful progress of the world community towards the recognition of the 1932-1933 Holodomor as a genocide. The materials of the specified problem acquire applied value when they are used at public events dedicated to honouring the memory of the Holodomor victims. It is symbolic that WIT, having consultative status at the UN, where the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted on December 9, 1948, spreads truthful information about the Holodomor-genocide against the Ukrainian nation through its educational mission at the international level, promotes meaningful progress of the world community towards the recognition of the 1932-1933 Holodomor as a genocide organized by the Soviet totalitarian regime.*

*The positions of the WIT public organization regarding the cardinal social, political, and economic problems of world development, which affect the dynamics of civilization, have been made public. Large-scale social and political phenomena are analysed, including the importance of recognition by the world community of the 1932-33 Holodomor as an act of genocide of the Ukrainian nation. The specified topical problems are actively introduced into the enlightening process of educational institutions in the USA and Ukraine.*

**Keywords:** *Holodomor-genocide, Ukraine, World Information Transfer (WIT), educational process.*

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**Бібліографічний опис для цитування:** Капустян Г. Просвітницька місія ВІТ (WIT, World Information Transfer) у розкритті правди про Голодомор-геноцид 1932 – 1933 рр. в Україні. *Український селянин*. 2022. Вип. 28. С. 34-40. doi: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-28-Kapustyan

## ПРОСВІТНИЦЬКА МІСІЯ WIT (WIT, WORLD INFORMATION TRANSFER) У РОЗКРИТТІ ПРАВДИ ПРО ГОЛОДОМОР-ГЕНОЦИД 1932 – 1933 РР. В УКРАЇНІ

**Анотація.** Метою статті є аналіз просвітницької місії WIT у частині постановки проблеми Голодомору-геноциду 1932 – 1933 рр. української нації на міжнародному рівні, інформування світової громадськості про організований радянським тоталітарним режимом геноцид голодом, залучення визнаних політичних, громадських експертів, державних діячів до дискусії щодо трагедії світового масштабу – злочину проти людяності і людства, а також використання їх прикладних висновків в освітньому процесі навчальних закладів.

**Наукова новизна.** У статті вперше проаналізовано просвітницьку місію міжнародної громадської організації World Information Transfer (WIT, BIT, Світова організація передачі інформації) в частині постановки питання та донесення до міжнародної громадськості глобальної проблеми організації радянським тоталітарним режимом Голодомору-геноциду 1932 – 1933 рр. української нації.

**Висновки.** Встановлено, що активне використання в освітньому процесі матеріалів, висновків, рекомендацій Конференцій WIT, присвячених організованому Голодомору-геноциду 1932 – 33рр., сприяє перетворенню знань фактологічного порядку в теоретичні. Аналіз форм і методів інформування світової громадськості про злочин радянського тоталітарного режиму Голодомору-геноциду 1932 – 1933 рр., залучення визнаних політичних, громадських експертів, державних діячів до дискусії щодо трагедії світового масштабу – злочину проти людяності і людства сприяє осмисленню поступу світової спільноти до визнання Голодомору 1932 – 1933 рр. геноцидом. Прикладного значення матеріали означеної проблеми набувають у використанні їх на громадських заходах, присвячених пошануванню пам'яті жертв Голодомору. Символічно, що WIT, маючи консультативний статус при ООН, у стінах якої було прийнято 9 грудня 1948 року Конвенцію про злочин геноциду, власною просвітницькою місією у міжнародній площині поширює правдиву інформацію про Голодомор-геноцид проти української нації, сприяє осмисленню поступу світової спільноти до визнання Голодомору 1932 – 1933 рр. геноцидом, організованого радянським тоталітарним режимом.

**Ключові слова:** Голодомор-геноцид, Україна, World Information Transfer (WIT, BIT, Світова організація передачі інформації), освітній процес.

**Problem statement.** The public organization WIT was founded in the United States in 1987, after the Chernobyl accident on April 26, 1986. This occurrence has become the generator of this non-profit international organization, which announced global changes for global solutions concerning sustainable global development<sup>1</sup>. Organizations, that work in the field of civil society development, such as WIT, play an important role in informing and distributing relevant knowledge into the global human space.

**Research analysis.** The importance of the social structures in the formation and development of civil society was outlined in the late XX - early XXI century. Modern historiography actualizes the issue of substantive content and main milestones in the variety of social move-

ments. The return to taboo topics calls for the intellectual self-organization of society. One of such public educational organizations, namely the Association of Holodomor Researchers in Ukraine, was created in June 1992. Its educational mission was emphasized by researchers and its active participants<sup>2</sup>.

**The purpose** of the article is to analyse the WIT enlightening mission in terms of posing the problem of the 1932-1933 Holodomor-genocide of the Ukrainian nation at the international level, informing the world public about the genocide by famine organized by the Soviet totalitarian regime, involving recognized political, public experts, and statesmen in the discussion about the tragedy of the world scale which is a crime against humanity and humankind, as well as

<sup>1</sup> World Information Transfer. URL: <https://worldinfo.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Капустян Г. Асоціація дослідників голодоморів в Україні – дієва інституція у відродженні націонал-демократичних традицій українства. Чорноволивські читання. *Матеріали V Всеукраїнської наукової конференції*. Івано-Франківськ: Симфонія форте. 2019. С. 156; Веселова О. З історії створення і діяльності Асоціації дослідників голодомору в Україні. Київ: АДГУ. 2007. С. 139; Марочко В. «Ми затялися полінів не буде...»: до 30-річчя створення Асоціації дослідників Голодоморів в Україні. URL: <https://holodomorinstitute.org.ua/my-zatyalysya-polyniv-ne-bude-do-30-richchya-stvorennya-asociazciyi-doslidnykiv-golodomoriv-v-ukrayini-v-marochko/>

the use of their applied conclusions in the educational process of educational institutions.

**The statement of the basic material.** The study of Ivan Petrenko is devoted to the educational activities of public organizations of the Ukrainian diaspora in the USA, in particular the Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America (UCCA), regarding the dissemination of the truth about the Holodomor of 1932–1933 during the years of USSR and the implementation of political control by the Soviet special services<sup>3</sup>.

To achieve this goal, WIT uses the motto proclaimed by Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world"<sup>4</sup>. Since 1992, at the UN Headquarters in New York, WIT has been conducting each year one of the world's leading forums to present the scientific work of international experts revealing the connection between environmental degradation and human health, informing about the impact of politics on the environment and human health as well as giving the updates on the goals of sustainable development for educational purposes and social progress<sup>5</sup>.

Dr. Khrystyna Kovshevych-Durbak has been the founder and head of WIT for decades. She is convinced that education provides new knowledge and knowledge provides new opportunities<sup>6</sup>. An important guarantee of the success of democratic processes in the world is a sustainable civil society. Manifestations of modern civil society are multifaceted. In turn, its versatility gives rise to a variety of forms and methods. Overcoming the thorny paths to the establishment of sustainable democracy, Western countries have confirmed with their own experience the multi-vector nature of democratic processes. The full range of forms and methods involved in seeking civil society progress ultimately forces national governments to respond to public demands. And, in this way, to protect from the suffering of war and tyranny in the periods of global change. The noble goal of protecting the rights, freedoms of citizens, democracy is to be achieved through public

organizations are consolidating missionaries. In a historic speech in Fulton (USA, 1946), Winston Churchill emphasized the importance of Western countries as guarantors of democratic processes in the postwar world: "We must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus, trial by jury, and the English common law find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence"<sup>7</sup>. The publication by the public organization WIT of cardinal socio-political and economic the world level problems, which affect the dynamics of civilization, as well as the involvement of recognized experts in the analysis of a phenomenon emphasizes the scale and credibility of its conclusions and recommendations which are actively implemented in the educational process of educational institutions in the United States and Ukraine<sup>8</sup>. The winter 2008 issue of the World Environmental Journal was devoted entirely to the problem of hunger. The first page of this publication mentions the topic: "Hunger: a natural or man-made crisis?" WIT takes an indifferent position to the existing urgent problems of mankind, publishes them in its own publication. The problem of food security of the population in many countries of the African and Asian continents is not solved today. Determining the causes of hunger in general, WIT notes: "Traditionally, it is believed that hunger can be caused by reduced food production, or excessive birth rates"<sup>9</sup>. However, not all hunger cases are necessarily caused by this factor. Hunger is a sign that some people do not have sufficient access to food, and this is not due to lack of food resources<sup>10</sup>. The magazine distinguishes between natural and artificial causes of hunger. Separately, the publication reports on the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine: "The famine was sometimes used as a means of repressive actions by governments to get rid of opponents. The Example is the Holodomor in Ukraine in the 1930s, when

3 Петренко І. Боротьба комуністичного тоталітарного режиму в 1980-ті рр. проти намагань української діаспори поширити правду про Голодомор 1932–1933 рр. *Міждисциплінарні підходи у дослідженні Голодомору-геноциду Матеріали IV Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції* (19 листопада 2020 р.). Київ, 2021. С. 126 – 132.

4 URL: <https://osvita.ua/blogs/65508/>

5 Ворлд інформейшен трансфер (ВІТ – Світова передача інформації): Концепція і підхід. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2009. Вип. 22 (1,2). С. 19.

6 Durbak K. Opening Statement: „Education brings choices. Choices bring power“. *World Information Transfer*. 2015. Т. 17 (1, 2). Р. 2

7 Черчіль В. Залізна завіса. Невичерпність демократії. Київ: Український письменник. 1994. С. 99–100.

8 Ворлд інформейшен трансфер (ВІТ – Світова передача інформації): Концепція і підхід. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2009. Вип. 22 (1, 2). С. 19.

9 Природна чи рукотворна криза? *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2008. Вип. 21 (4). С. 3.

10 Ibid. С. 3.

Stalin exported food to Belgium, France, and Germany, letting the population of Ukraine starve. Addressing a similar thesis in the study of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932-33 in the course "History of Ukraine" emphasizes the artificiality of the Holodomor organized by the Soviet police regime<sup>11</sup>. Dr. Durbak cites the bunch of political methods that are used in man-made famine: "The artificial causes of famine are usually politically motivated. Those are bad government policies, wrong or farfetched public policies and repressive political systems"<sup>12</sup>. These include wars accompanied by blockades, the destruction of food or crops and the military burden on the economy, which causes shortages of labor, machinery, and fertilizers, thus reducing the area under cultivated land, crops, and production. Revolutions, especially when they involve the peasantry and the bureaucracy, lead to a reduction in harvests, and thus to a famine. Important causes of hunger, leading to poverty of various segments of the population are political instability, armed conflict, corruption, economic insolvency, poor resource management, imperfect trade policy<sup>13</sup>. At the 18th International Conference on Health and the Environment (April 2009), Dr. Durbak noted that the Holodomor in Ukraine was the result of the collectivization of agricultural land under the Soviet regime. "Between 1931 and 1933, 33 percent of the Ukrainian population died under Stalin's brutal rule. Holodomor is a Ukrainian word used to describe forced famine. Documents from former Soviet archives suggest that Stalin deliberately forced farm owners to comply with grain delivery regulations before peasants could harvest their own crops. The question of whether Stalin deliberately caused Ukrainian famine remains controversial. Some believe that Stalin was looking for a way to punish politically disobedient Ukraine, while others believe that the slow killing through starvation was the embodiment of a long-standing desire to "finally solve" the political and cultural "problem" of Ukrainian nationalism. The result of the Holodomor was Soviet and Russian domination over exclusively fertile agricultural lands in Ukraine"<sup>14</sup>. The presentation of the Holodomor problem in the educational process involves the use of a specific historical method

of research. It is this method that helps to specify the direct demographic losses due to organized artificial famine. Experts from the WIT scientific conference state the figure of 33% of the population of Ukraine who died as a result of the crime of the Stalinist political regime. Comparing different methods and techniques of studying demographic losses, encourages the use of historical and comparative methods in an effort to achieve objectivity in the presentation of material during the educational process. The Soviet totalitarian regime tried to keep silent about the crime of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. Therefore, the sources of oral history are gaining special importance.

On May 8, 2009, Professor Hanna Kapustyan, a researcher of the oral history of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, presented to the international community at UN Headquarters the evidence of the genocide of the Ukrainian nation by the Soviet totalitarian regime. According to witnesses, the components of the Holodomor genocide of the Ukrainian nation were: the organization of court patrols, as a result of which all food supplies were requisitioned, the economic and information blockade of Ukraine. The ban on information about the famine of 1932-1933 lasted until 1987 in the USSR. The facts published at the UN conference were reflected in the WIT website. A special multi-thousandth issue of which was addressed to educational institutions in the United States, Canada, Central Europe and Ukraine<sup>15</sup>. Stalin viewed Ukraine and the Kuban as places of special resistance to communist methods of governing. In November 1932, special party decrees were issued, which encouraged punitive actions in Ukraine and Kuban, where Ukrainians lived compactly, namely, the introduction of inkind fines, organization of yard walks and economic blockade, blacklisting of Ukrainian villages and Kuban districts. The brigades forcibly confiscated from the peasants not only the grain but also other food and valuables so that the peasants could not sell or exchange them for food. Special detachments of activists - "towing brigades" - are being set up to seize food<sup>16</sup>.

The third session of International Conference on Health and the Environment, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on December 3rd,

11 Ibid. C. 4.

12 Ibid. C. 3.

13 Ibid. C. 3.

14 Ibid. C. 3.

15 Durbak K. Opening Statement: „Education brings choices. Choices bring power“. World Information Transfer. 2009. Т. 17(3,4). Р. 2.

16 Капустян Г. Можливості і виклики для глобальної енергії у 21-му столітті. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2009. Вип. 17(3,4). С. 24 – 25.

2012, was dedicated to the Holodomor of 1932-33 in Ukraine. A characteristic feature of such conferences is the consolidation of democratic intellectuals, their ability through their own education to convey to the world community an understanding of the circumstances of the crime of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations, Mr. Normans Penke, said: "The Holodomor was intended to destroy all living things. Can you imagine the scale of the catastrophe, when 25,000 Ukrainians died every day in the midst of famine! It should also be mentioned that in addition to the famine, it was the state organized a program to eliminate the kulaks, the middle class, and private farmers who were perceived as class enemies of the Soviet Union. Also the introduction of collectivization enabled the killers to physically eliminate more than a million peasants in 1930 - 1932. It is clear that such a policy was secretly pursued by Stalin and his supporters, was well planned, and aimed at destroying the souls of Ukrainians, to ruin Ukraine. These crimes must not be forgotten. I am proud that the Parliament of my country, the Republic of Latvia, has adopted a Declaration recognizing the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the people of Ukraine. Here in Latvia, which has its own tragic experience of Stalin's rule, the victims of the Holodomor will always be remembered and our hearts will always be with the people of Ukraine"<sup>17</sup>. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations, Margus Kolga, stated that among the countries that recognized the Holodomor as genocide, Estonia was the first to adopt a parliamentary declaration on October 20, 1993, condemning "communist genocide policies in Ukraine"<sup>18</sup>. Mr. Raimonda Murmokaite is Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations. She noted that such tragedies occur under conditions of mismanagement, disregard for democratic principles, and the rule of law. "Stalin's plans for mass collectivization of agriculture were ruthlessly imposed on the rural population in Ukraine," - the diplomat said. "Many families were deported to Siberia simply because they were successful farmers, agronomists, or entrepreneurs in order to "eliminate the kulaks as a class" and, while being in exile, were later reexiled from one place to another, for keeping

their hard-working spirit even in such inhuman conditions. The past cannot be changed. But the truth must be told. The memory of the victims of the Holodomor must live on. It should be a source of strength in cases of injustice, strengthening our determination to defend and uphold human rights, and to promote democratic governance and the rule of law"<sup>19</sup>. Mr. Tamara Gallo Oleksa, President of the Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America (CCA), called the international community not to slow down with the recognition of the crime of genocide of 1932-1933 against the Ukrainian nation by the Soviet totalitarian regime, which did everything possible to hide. She pointed out the information blockade: "The Holodomor was so massive, so horrific, and carried out on such a grand scale that the Soviet authorities did everything possible to take all precautionary measures to hide evidence of this genocide from the world - from sealing Ukraine's border during 1932-1933 to stop starving peasants from fleeing and to prevent any outside efforts to help people reach out to people, to deny its very existence, and to buy collaborations with wellknown journalists of the era, such as Walter Duranti of New York Times. So why take such measures? It is because of the scale of this crime. Never in history have we witnessed a genocide of such magnitude as in Ukraine during 1932-1933"<sup>20</sup>. Olga Marko, Master of Law, International Lawyer, from Ivan Franko Lviv National University as a lawyer set the task: "to determine the elements of the Holodomor crime and, if available, to prove the *dolus specialis* of the Holodomor crime as genocide, and hence a crime against international law." The lawyer raises the question of "the legitimacy of the retroactive application of the Convention on the Holodomor of 1932-1933, as the crime was committed much earlier than the adoption of the Convention." However, the Soviet government was well aware of its own actions, as the Paris Peace Conference of January 25, 1919, established a Commission to Investigate the Responsibility of War Perpetrators, which defined crimes and divided them into four groups: crimes against the sacred treaties, crimes against international morality, violations of the laws of humanity and war crimes. War crimes included murder, extermination, systematic terror, illtreatment of civilians, deportation of civilians, looting,

17 Пенке Н. Про продовольчу безпеку та сталість. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2013. Вип. 15 (1, 2). С. 10.

18 Колга М. Естонія вшановує пам'ять мільйонів жертв голоду-геноциду 1932 – 1933 років в Україні. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2013. Вип. 15 (1, 2), С. 9.

19 Мурмокайте Р. Кожна людина має повне право на свободу від голоду. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2013. Вип. 15 (1, 2). С. 11.

20 Галло О. Право на правду про Голодомор. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2013. Вип. 15 (1, 2). С. 12.

and, most importantly, deliberate starvation of civilians. "Therefore," the speaker notes, "it is safe to say that the Soviet authorities were well aware of the criminality of their actions, as the concept of" starvation "existed long before the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. Thus, the retroactive application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948 and the Study of the Qualification of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, according to the latter Convention, as a crime of genocide of a national and/or ethnic Ukrainian group is legitimate"<sup>21</sup>. Oleksandr Motyl, a professor of political science at Rutgers University, states that the famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933 was politically determined and planned by Stalin. For Stalin, the question of the Ukrainian peasantry was "essentially a national question". By suppressing the peasantry, the most powerful national movement capable of resisting the process of building the USSR was destroyed. After the famine damaged the Ukrainian peasantry, the regime completely condemned the policy of "Ukrainization" pursued since the early 1920s: the Ukrainian elite was gathered and arrested. This attack, directed specifically against Ukrainians, made it possible to define the set of deliberate political actions initiated by the Stalinist regime against the Ukrainian peasantry in the late summer of 1932 as genocide. With the help of famine as a deadly

weapon, the regime tried to punish and terrorize the peasants, resulting in the deaths of more than four million people in Ukraine and the North Caucasus. Professor Motil argues that the famine of 1932-1933 should be considered as one of the types of Soviet massacres committed during the bloody regime<sup>22</sup>. Professor Ray Gamash of King's College, Pennsylvania, warns that the Holodomor is possible by neglecting stability and rights in relation to the most important resource of any country - the people, and when the sovereignty of the people is brutally and unprincipledly destroyed<sup>23</sup>.

**Conclusion.** Active usage in the educational process of materials, conclusions, recommendations of the WIT Conferences, dedicated to the organized Holodomor-genocide of 1932-33, which contributes to the transformation of knowledge of the factual order is pure theoretical. The materials of this problem gain practical importance in their usage in the lessons of remembrance dedicated to the Holodomor Remembrance Day on the fourth Saturday of November. It is symbolic that the WIT, with its consultative status with the United Nations, which adopted the Convention on the Crime of Genocide on December 9, 1948, distributes truthful information about the Holodomor genocide against the Ukrainian nation through its own international educational mission that

21 Марко О. Голодомор 1932 – 1933 років в Україні як злочин геноциду. Дослідження злочинної політики Й. Сталіна та його соратників з позиції міжнародного права. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2013. Вип. 15 (1, 2). № 13–14.

22 Мотиль О. Голодомор в Україні і брак продовольчої безпеки сьогодні. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2012. Вип. 15 (1, 2). С. 4.

23 Гамаш Р. На пам'ять про Голодомор: роздуми про трагедію. *Світовий екологічний журнал*. 2014. Вип. 16 (13). С. 13–14.

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Надійшла до редакції / Received: 20.06.2022

Схвалено до друку / Accepted: 05.09.2022