



Mayors of Ukraine Awarded GPM's Prestigious Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award 2022

28 June, 2022 - This year, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) awarded the prestigious Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award to all Ukrainian Mayors. The award ceremony was part of the opening of the GPM Annual Summit 2022, hosted by Mayor Marcin Krupa of Katowice, Poland. The Dr. Benjamin Barber Award recognizes mayors for their outstanding contributions to furthering global urban governance and inspiring city leadership.

The Ukrainian mayors received the award as a symbol of support for their resistance in the face of hostile attacks against and invasions of their cities. Their determination in safeguarding their citizens and territories, and their tenacious focus on the reconstruction of their communities and cities are an inspiration for local leaders around the world.

Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy, Chair of the award's selection committee, stated: "It is the first time that the GPM has awarded a group of mayors the Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award. It was impossible to select one specific Ukrainian mayor for excellent city leadership knowing that all Ukrainian mayors, from big and smaller cities, have worked in unprecedented difficult situations, and so many colleagues have shown excellent leadership in protecting their citizens and cities."

Oleksandr Slobozhan, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, received the award on behalf of the Ukrainian. He said, "the enemy is destroying the infrastructure, housing and social facilities of Ukrainian communities, but Ukrainian mayors continue to work in these very difficult conditions. Ukrainian city leaders and local government officials work under intense pressure from the occupiers, who threaten, abduct and torture them and their families. During the war, more than 50 local government officials were abducted, of whom 23 were mayors and 4 of them still remain in captivity. This award is a strong symbol of support from mayors from around the world to the Ukrainian mayors in their struggle for democracy, peace and sovereignty."

The Global Parliament of Mayors created the Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award to honour outstanding actions or research on urban governance and contributions to advancing the roles and principles set out by the GPM. The award is named in memory of the founder of GPM, Dr. Benjamin Barber, author of the book 'If Mayors Ruled the World' (2014), who continues to inspire mayors from around the world.

The GPM Annual Summit 2022 gathered 42 mayors representing 20 countries, city network leaders and representatives of international organisations such as UN Habitat, the OECD, Welcoming International and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in-person in Katowice and virtually. The event, held on 25 June, included debates on the topics of war refugees, social infrastructure, and democratic processes, reflecting the pressing issues facing the world.

More information:

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