

# Part of the Story

Women journalists in Ukraine share sources and support as they work for their country's survival

**D**ESPITE VLADIMIR PUTIN'S earlier threats, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 stunned most of the world. It rattled global financial markets, raised the stakes for international relations and alliances, and upended decades of relative stability for European NATO members.

But for Angelina Kariakina, Ukraine's conflict stretches back to 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea—with little to no pushback, she notes, from the rest of the world. Today, as a journalist and editor in Kyiv at the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine, she is among her country's most vaunted observers. Despite the privilege of being able to leave Ukraine if she wishes, she has steadfastly chosen to stay and chronicle not only the war itself but, more importantly, the startling resilience among her compatriots, particularly the women.

"Most women, if they aren't fleeing with their families, are staying to take care of them," she says, adding that even if they're not in combat, "women are also on the front line of this war. Their logistics are life logistics."

Many, if not most, Ukrainians are carrying on with life—going to their jobs, whether they work in factories or as physicians or in municipal services agencies.

"Things are actually getting done here," she says. "Though the idea is, 'How do I do my job while surviving?'"

Born in Kyiv and educated as a teacher of German language and literature, Kariakina drifted into newswriting at 22, eventually land-

ing at Euronews after the Maidan demonstrations—the "Revolution of Dignity," as she and other Ukrainians call it—which pushed back against years of government corruption and human rights violations, as well as against the government's drive for closer ties with Russia. She says she was inspired by other women reporters at the time, in particular by an editor who was younger than she was.

In March 2020, Kariakina cofounded the Public Interest Journalism Lab. And despite the widening war and inherent dangers, she is still determined to get the news out as best she can. She notes that the war has weakened competition among journalists, who see more urgency in sharing resources and supporting one another—in simply helping where there is great need.

"We're all asking the same question," she says, "which is how to help people."

Providing key information to Ukrainians—whether on how to avoid a shelling attack or where to locate the nearest bunker—is a practical way of doing this, but she adds that her colleagues have also physically helped older citizens navigate wartime dan-

gers and comforted distraught residents they've encountered while reporting around the country.

"In a sense, this makes us part of the story," she admits, "and of course raises the question of balance in journalism. But my response is, how can you be neutral when you're writing about a crime?"

It is exhausting, she says, and yet it's important to her to get across the message that "Ukrainians do not want to see themselves as victims. What they need is justice."

—ELIZABETH ZACH



Journalist Angelina Kariakina (top) says ▶ Ukrainians are carrying on with their lives; a child plays on a swing set in front of a damaged apartment block in Kyiv.