18 November

Ukraine's Oscar entry "Traces" premieres in the US at DOC NYC



The Ukrainian documentary "Traces" (Ukrainian: ?????) has had its US premiere at DOC NYC in New York. The film is directed by Alisa Kovalenko and co-directed by Marysia Nikitiuk. It tells the stories of Ukrainian women who survived sexual violence during Russia's war against Ukraine and are now fighting for justice. "Traces" is Ukraine's entry for Best International Feature Film at the 99th Academy Awards. The Rinat Akhmetov Foundation supports the film.

Where did "Traces" premiere in the US?

"Traces" premiered at DOC NYC, one of the largest and most influential documentary film festivals in the US. The festival is held in New York every year. This year it runs from 11 to 29 November 2026. For Ukraine, the screening is more than a festival event. It is a chance to tell the world about Russia's war crimes.

What is "Traces" about?

"Traces" tells the stories of Ukrainian women who survived sexual violence during Russia's war against Ukraine. They were not broken. They found the strength to speak out, seek justice and support other survivors. One of the film's main protagonists is Iryna Dovhan. She is a former captive and the founder of SEMA Ukraine, an NGO that brings together women who survived sexual violence during the war.

How is the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation supporting the film?

The film's strategic partner is the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation's Museum of Civilian Voices. The museum holds more than 145,000 testimonies from civilians about Russia's war against Ukraine. The filmmakers and the museum share a goal: to document what people have lived through, so that no crime is left without evidence.

Our shareholder Rinat Akhmetov personally awarded director Alisa Kovalenko a $200,000 (UAH 9 million) grant for the film's Oscar campaign.

> "When there are no testimonies and no voices, there are no crimes. Thanks to the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation, we are breaking through these walls. Our film is about strong women who fight for justice and break the silence together. It is part of the testimonies already being collected by the Museum of Civilian Voices. 'Traces' is about the power and importance of these voices," said Ms Kovalenko.

What awards has "Traces" won?

"Traces" has already been widely praised by the international film community and by audiences. It has won awards at many major international festivals, including the Audience Award at the 2026 Berlinale and the top jury prize at the Movies That Matter festival in The Hague.

When will we know if "Traces" is on the Oscar shortlist?

The shortlist for the 99th Academy Awards will be announced on 15 December 2026. That day, we will find out whether "Traces" has made the shortlist for Best International Feature Film. Until then, the film's international campaign continues.