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Ref. No. 234_ of June 4, 2026

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to you as a Candidate of Legal Sciences and an Associate Professor whose research in recent years has focused on the international legal protection of human rights and the legal status of forcibly displaced persons. It was precisely this field that led to my professional acquaintance with Nataliia Serhiivna Fursenko, a Candidate of Legal Sciences, and the interaction we have maintained since 2024 allows me to speak about her both as a researcher and as a practicing legal professional.

Our acquaintance began while I was working on a study devoted to the legal mechanisms for protecting Ukrainians who left the country after the start of the full-scale war. At a certain stage it became clear that the theoretical analysis of legislation outlines only the general framework, while the real difficulties of legalization, employment, and access to justice reveal themselves in the work of an attorney who accompanies such cases on a daily basis. Colleagues familiar with my topic recommended that I turn to Ms. Fursenko, since she combines academic training in law with direct practice in migration and international law. She provided me with a thorough online consultation, and since then, we have maintained a scholarly dialogue, exchanging observations on the legal situation of the Ukrainian community abroad.

Even during our first conversation, my attention was drawn to the way Nataliia Serhiivna works with information. Her answers rested on specific cases she had personally handled, and each generalization was accompanied by a comparison of provisions of Ukrainian, European, and American law, together with a clear explanation of exactly where these systems come into conflict for a particular individual. In effect, she treats her own practice as a body of primary data: she consolidates individual cases into recurring patterns, and from those patterns she derives methodologically grounded conclusions about how the relevant legal mechanisms do or do not function. This capacity to convert operational activity into analytical material is research-oriented rather than merely advisory, and it is what distinguishes a scholar from a practitioner who confines herself to applying a rule.

This analytical approach rests on a solid academic foundation. Nataliia Serhiivna defended her doctoral dissertation in criminal law and criminology, devoted to the criminological characterization and prevention of crimes committed by female juveniles, and she developed those results in a monograph and a series of peer-reviewed publications. The

discipline of criminological research, which requires working with empirical data, identifying determinants, and constructing preventive models, shaped her research style and continues to inform the way she reasons about migration and human rights issues today.

After 2022, the focus of her scholarly work naturally shifted toward questions that confronted millions of Ukrainians abroad. In her publications she has conducted a comparative analysis of the migration systems of the European Union and the United States with respect to the protection of forcibly displaced persons, examined strategies for adapting the migration legislation of Spain and the United States to the needs of Ukrainian refugees, studied the functioning of transnational law enforcement mechanisms in securing social guarantees for the Ukrainian community in the United States, and analyzed international legal instruments for protecting civilian populations in conditions of war. She devotes particular attention to the evolution of the institution of Ukrainian legal identity in the context of global migration challenges. These works share a common trait: they grow out of real situations faced by Ukrainian communities in various countries, and for that reason, they retain applied value without sacrificing academic rigor.

The methodological culmination of this line of research is the original approach she developed, the «Legal Bridge Method». Its essence lies in building a coherent legal "bridge" among the Ukrainian, European, and American legal systems for a person compelled to live across several jurisdictions at once. The value of this approach is that it organizes what at first appears to be a chaotic set of disparate legal problems into a consistent algorithmic framework for orientation, suitable for both practical application and further scholarly development.

Nataliia Serhiivna's standing within the academic community is also confirmed by her expert activity. She serves as a scholarly reviewer for the peer-reviewed journals «Academic Visions», «Scientific Notes of Lviv University of Business and Law», and «Ukrainian Political and Legal Discourse», a role that entails evaluating the research of others against criteria of methodological soundness and the reliability of conclusions. Such work demands mature scholarly judgment, and the fact that editorial boards entrust her with this expertise is itself independent evidence of her professional authority. In parallel, she carries out systematic legal education work: she delivers lectures, conducts webinars, and prepares educational materials to help Ukrainians abroad navigate questions of legalization, labor, family, and immigration law. For her contribution to developing legal support for the Ukrainian diaspora and to strengthening international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, she has been honored with the international Order of «Saint Sophia».

I would also like to highlight a quality that, in my view, lends her work particular depth. Behind every case Nataliia Serhiivna sees a specific person, with their own story, their fear of an unfamiliar system, and their language barrier, and it is this that keeps her research anchored in reality. As a result, her conclusions never remain abstract constructs; they are tested against living material, which makes them especially persuasive for both an academic audience and those who will apply them in practice.

In light of the above, I recommend Nataliia Serhiivna Fursenko without any reservation. I am confident of her value to academic and research programs that require a

specialist capable of working with primary data and of converting practical experience into methodologically grounded conclusions; to scholarly projects in the fields of international, migration, and human rights law; and to teaching and expert activity in which the combination of theoretical preparation with direct practice is decisive. Her blend of a criminological research school, a pressing migration agenda, and her own methodology yields a rare balance of scholarly rigor and applied relevance. For these reasons, I consider her candidacy worthy of the highest support, and I am prepared to confirm this recommendation if needed.

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