CAMPUS INTEGRITY

as a Pillar of Academic Freedom

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Structure of Our Presentation

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Our goal is to explore how universities uphold integrity and freedom in their physical and institutional spaces, especially during moments of crisis.

to be best
point of view.
Integrity
moral principles
ethical principl
completeness

Why We Narrowed the Scope

Campus integrity is a broad and multi-layered concept, covering:

01 **Academic integrity: honest research, avoiding plagiarism**

02 **Governance integrity: ethical and transparent leadership**

03 **Social integrity: equity and inclusion within the community**

Due to the complexity of this topic, we chose to focus on the physical protection of campus spaces and how they uphold core freedoms

We draw inspiration from the Student Integrity Code (University of Puget Sound):

- ***Maintaining essential campus operations***
- ***Preventing material disruption***
- ***Ensuring access and safety for all***

What Threatens Campus Integrity?

During war and crisis, universities face three main threats

War and Armed Conflict

- Damage to physical infrastructure
- Restricted movement and campus closures
- Military occupation or use of facilities

Political Repression

- Arrests or surveillance of student activists
- Use of force against protests
- Government pressure on academic freedom

Economic and Social Instability

- Underfunding of institutions
- Unsafe campuses due to protests or unrest
- Displacement of students and faculty

Our Research Question

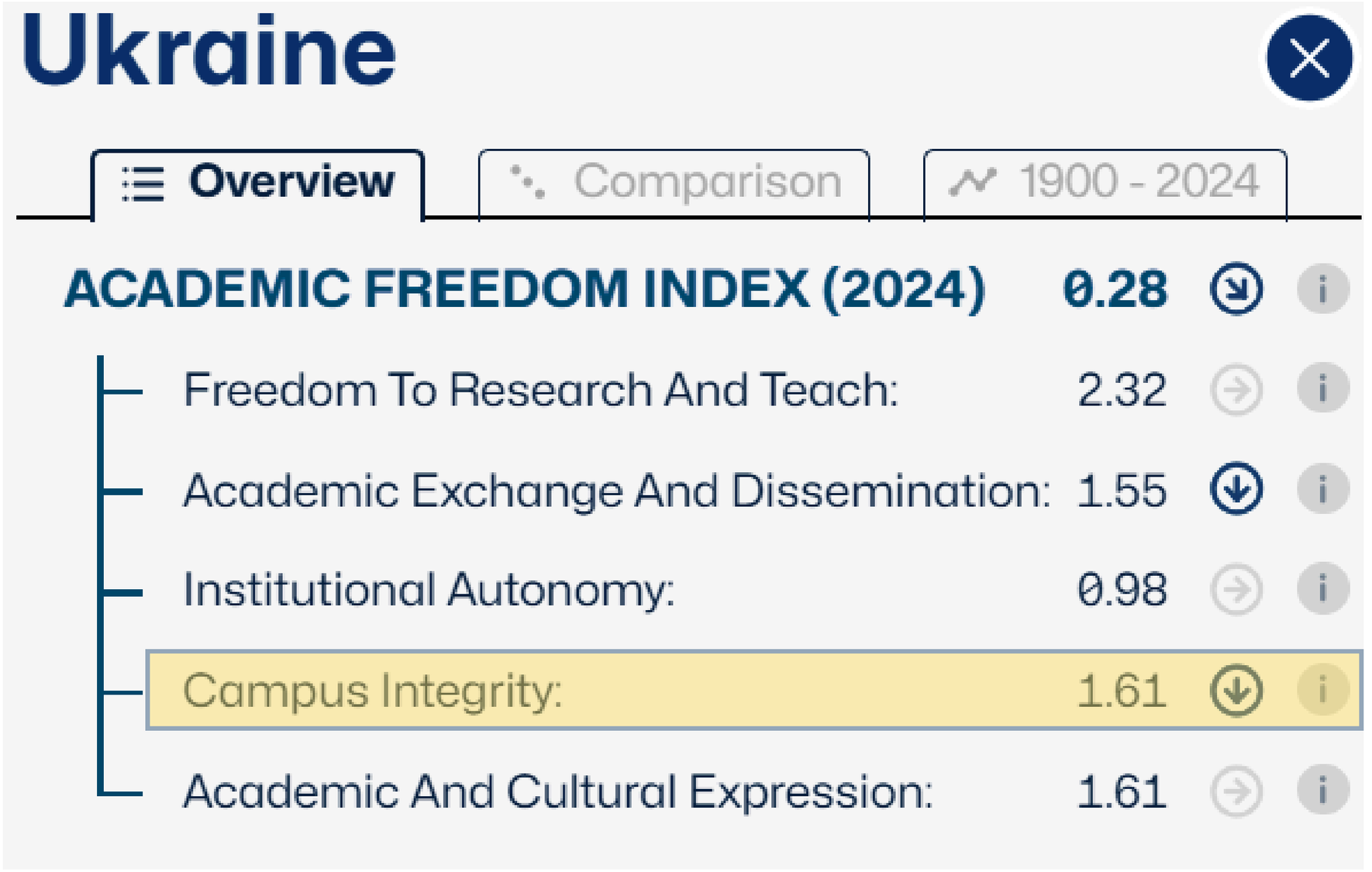
How do universities respond to threats against campus integrity?

We are examining:

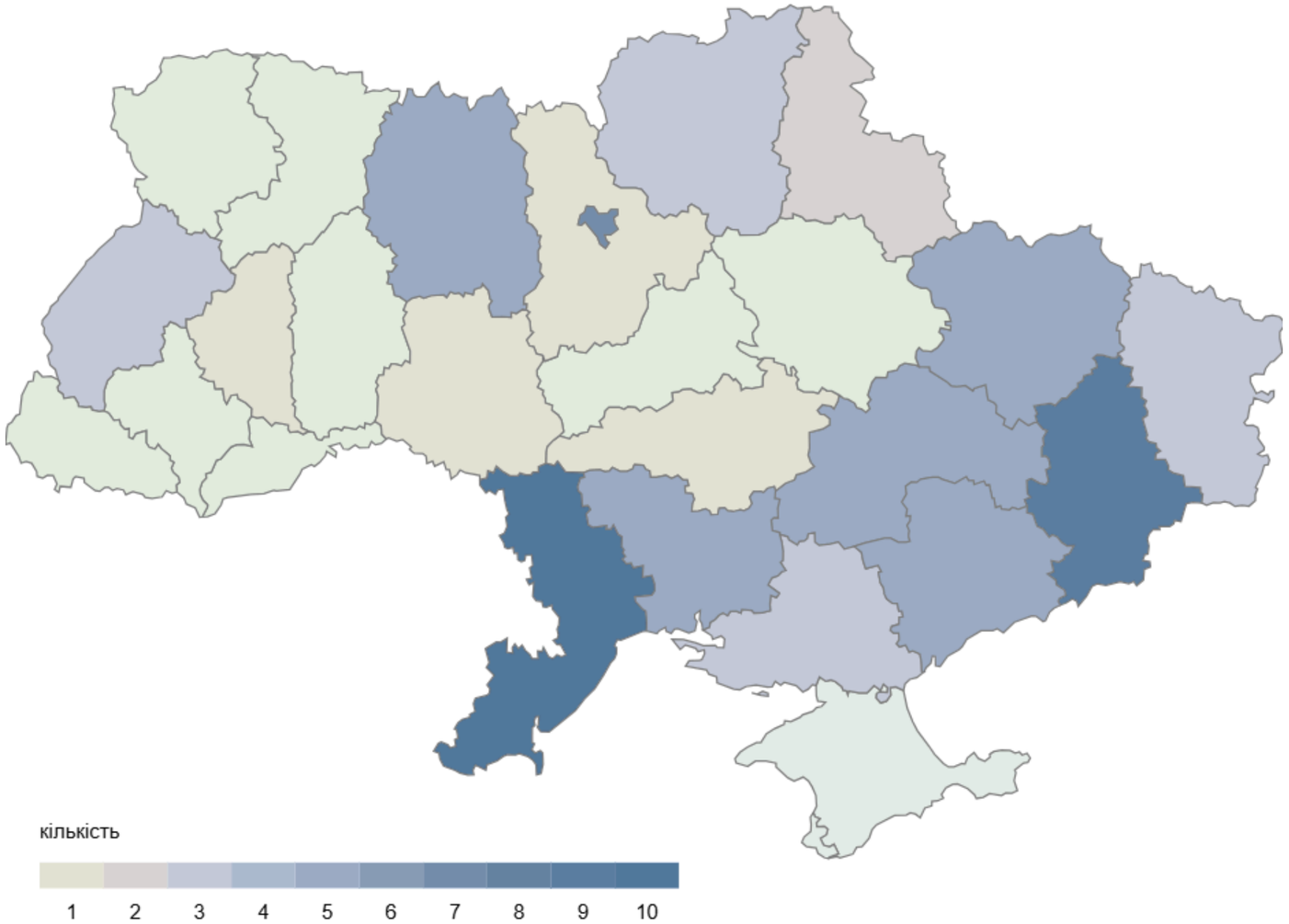
- **How institutions adapt physically (e.g., increased security, safe zones)**
- **How they protect the rights of students and staff**
- **Which practices are effective and which are problematic**

Through real-life examples, we analyze both positive responses and failures across global contexts.

Threats of War and Conflict



Threats of War and Conflict



69 HEIs damaged

5 HEIs destroyed

$6.8 bn losses from the destruction of educational institutions

89 university teachers died serving in the Ukrainian military

source: texty.org.ua

Threats of War and Conflict

Sumy State University, September 2024

TSNUK, November 2024

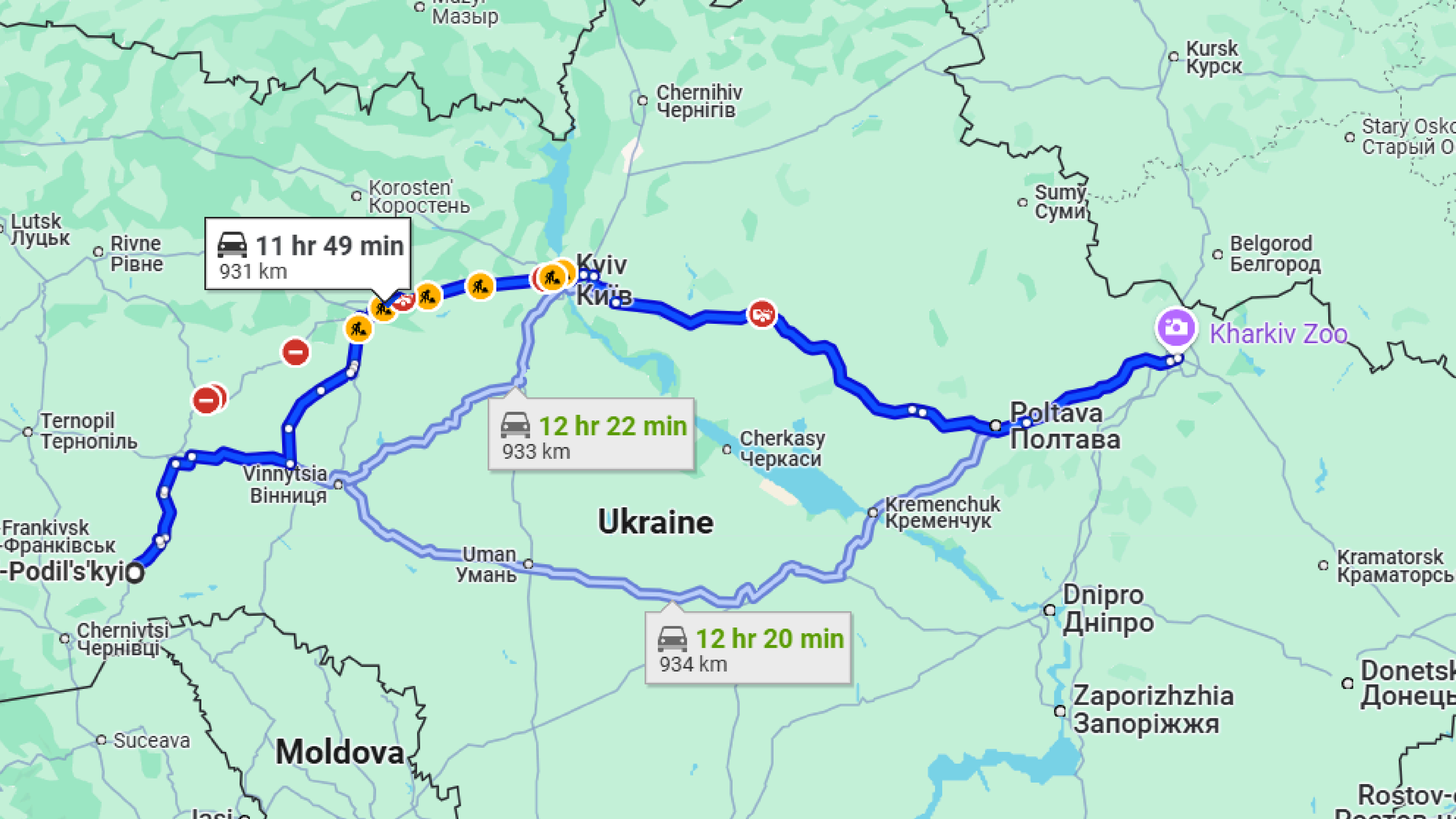
War and Conflict: Solutions

- **Online classes**, **part-time education** – however, it is a challenge in itself
- **Building** and **renovating** bomb shelters at universities
- **Improving cybersecurity**
- **Quotas**, **benefits**, and **scholarships** for students relocating from occupied territories
- **Relocating** the universities from occupied or heavily attacked territories

Bomb shelter at Sumy State University

Hardships During Relocation of Higher Education in War: KNUIA Case Study

- Displacement & Saparation From Families
- Loss of Academic Resources + Limitits for Research & Study
- Interrupted Practical Training
- Collapse of Sports & Physical Facilities
- Safety Challenges Under the War Conditions


11 hr 49 min
931 km
12 hr 22 min
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Ukraine
Moldova
Kharkiv Zoo
Kyiv
Київ
Poltava
Полтава
Chernihiv
Чернігів
Kursk
Курск
Sumy
Суми
Belgorod
Белгород
Korosten'
Коростень
Lutsk
Луцьк
Rivne
Рівне
Ternopil
Тернопіль
Vinnytsia
Вінниця
Cherkasy
Черкаси
Kremenchuk
Кременчук
Uman
Умань
Dnipro
Дніпро
Zaporizhzhia
Запоріжжя
Kramatorsk
Краматорськ
Chernivtsi
Чернівці
Suceava
Frankivsk
Франківськ

Columbia University, New York City, US

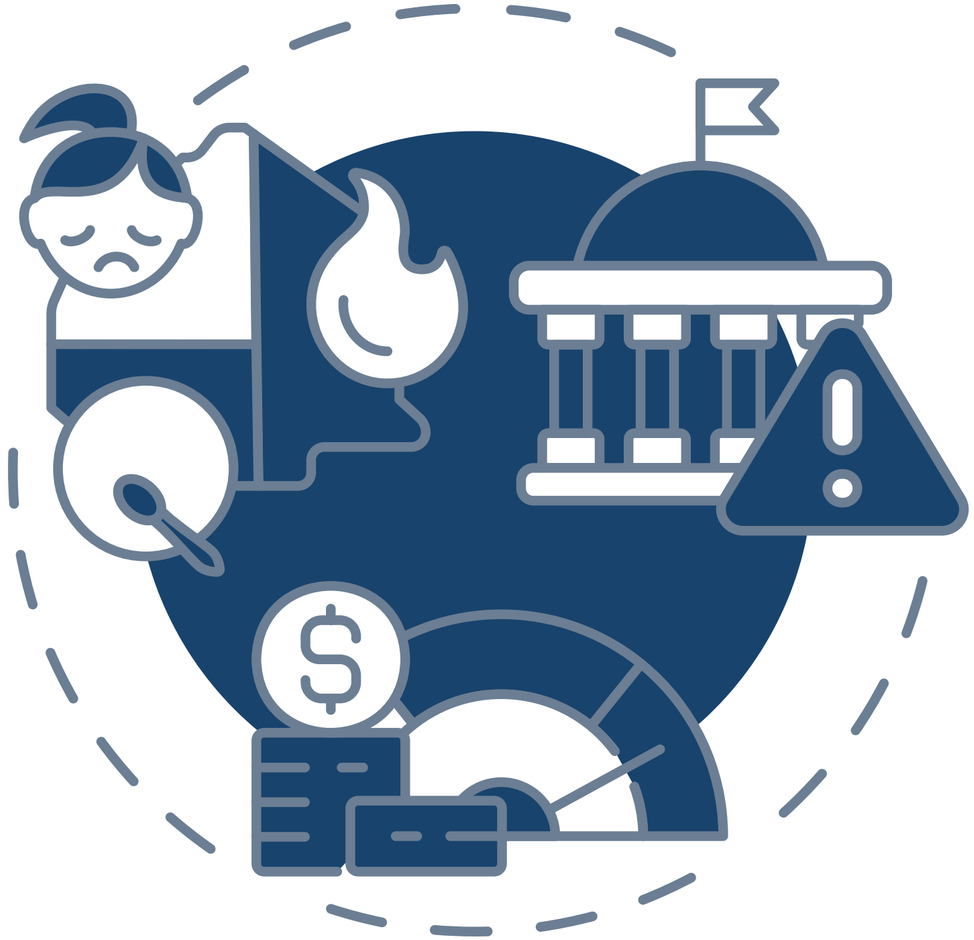
Harvard University, Newtown, US

University of Palermo, Italy

Economic and social instability can seriously undermine campus integrity by threatening equitable access to education, student safety, and the social role of the university.

These crises can:

- Make education financially inaccessible to large parts of the population
- Lead to dangerous campus environments during social unrest
- Cause universities to collapse under severe underfunding
- Disrupt education for migrant and displaced students
- Increase social polarization and discrimination on campus
- Sexual Harassment



Financial Barriers to Access

Example:

- Economic crisis in southern Italy forcing students to migrate or leave education to find work.

Problem:

- Growing inequality, educational dropouts, and local brain drain.

Solution:

- Expand financial aid, emergency funds, student housing support, flexible online or part-time learning.

Social Unrest and Unsafe Campuses

Example:

- Student protests in Latin America (e.g., Chile, Colombia) met with violent police repression, leading to unsafe campus spaces and temporary shutdowns.

Problem:

- Physical safety compromised; student rights to protest endangered.

Solution:

- Create campus safe zones, enforce non-violence policies, develop de-escalation teams.

University Underfunding and Resource Collapse

Example:

- Lebanon’s economic collapse leading to unpaid faculty, poor infrastructure, and campus deterioration.

Problem:

- Decline in education quality and campus safety.

Solution:

- Seek international academic partnerships, adopt low-cost and digital education models, advocate for universities to be prioritized as essential public infrastructure.

Migration Pressures and Displacement

Example:

- Full scale Invasion of Ukraine

Problem:

- Exclusion of displaced students, overburdened resources.

Solution:

- Fast-track enrollment for refugees, language courses, housing support, cooperation with NGOs for legal and social assistance

Social Fragmentation and Discrimination

Example:

- Rise of far-right sentiment in Greece during economic hardship, leading to harassment of migrant and minority students on some campuses.

Problem:

- Campus no longer safe or inclusive for all students.

Solution:

- Enforce strong anti-discrimination policies, provide legal protection and support networks for affected students, run awareness campaigns to maintain campus cohesion.

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence

Example:

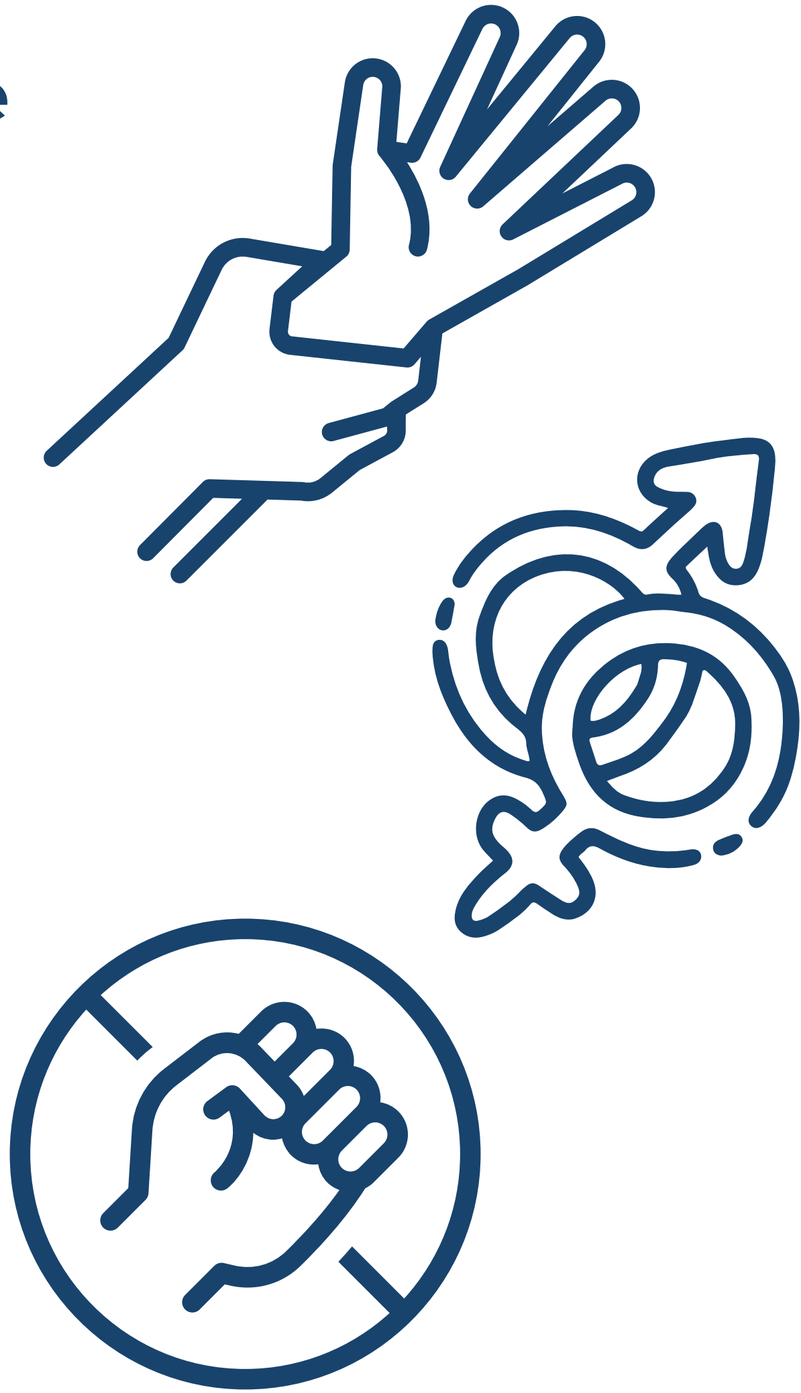
- Cases across universities worldwide, especially during institutional crises or social instability, where sexual harassment is underreported, ignored, or mishandled. Students in countries like Mexico and the UK have protested to demand stronger protections.

Problem:

- Campus no longer safe or inclusive, especially for women, LGBTQ+ students, and other vulnerable groups.

Solution:

- Enforce clear anti-harassment policies, provide confidential reporting channels, offer survivor support services, and promote prevention and awareness campaigns.



What Should Universities Do?

In times of war, repression, or instability, universities should:

- Ensure accessibility to education and campus resources
- Strengthen resilience of physical infrastructure
- Protect freedom of movement, assembly, and speech
- Provide safe zones for students under threat
- Support the relocation of scholars and students in crisis

Institutional autonomy is a tool for resistance and protection.

Political Repression: Crucial Recommendation

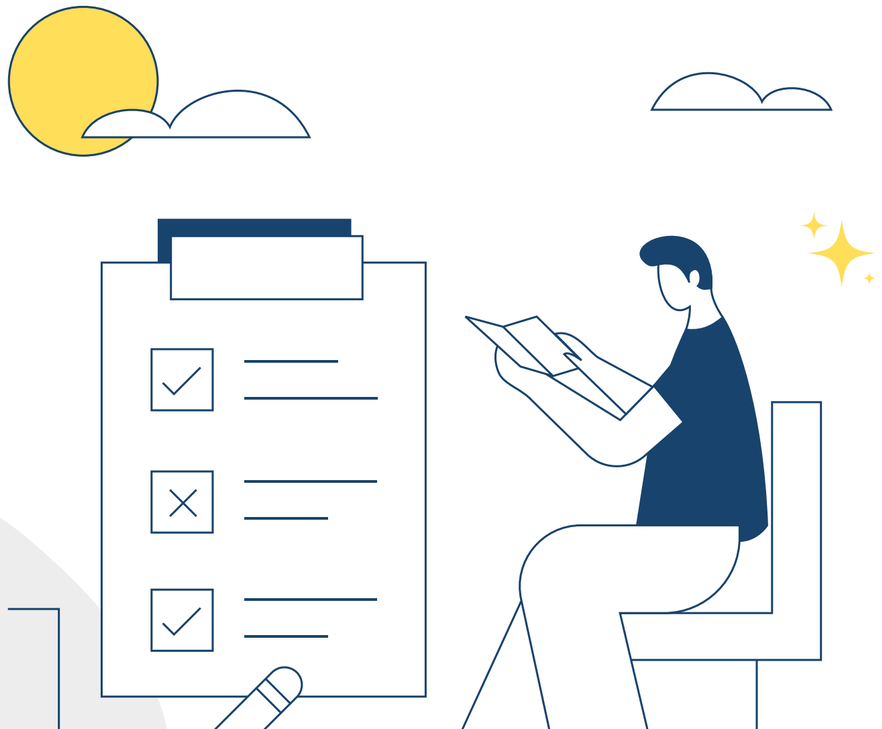
Empower students by involving them in university decision-making.

- When students are treated as partners, not outsiders, the university is better equipped to resist external political pressure.
- This builds internal democracy and protects against repression.
- Increased autonomy helps universities avoid becoming tools of authoritarian control.

Protecting campus integrity means defending both the people and the space.

Future Directions

This project is ongoing - our research continues, and we aim to publish our findings.



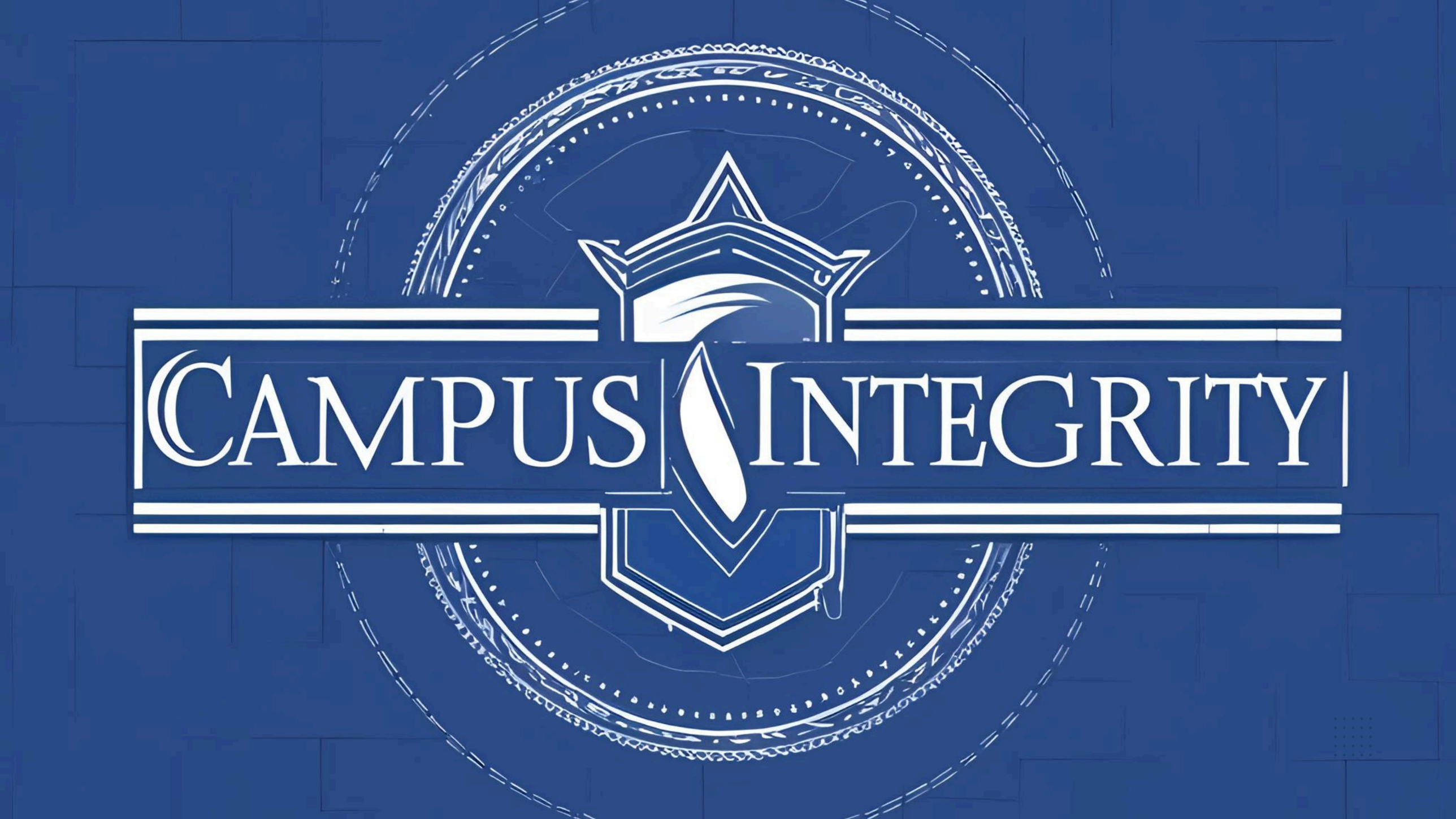
1. Student Survey

- Launch a questionnaire to find out what students value most in campus integrity

→ Accessibility? Safety? Free speech? Protection from surveillance?

2. Historical & Global Cases

Analyze more past examples (e.g., Iran, CEU in Hungary, Ukraine, etc.)


CAMPUS INTEGRITY

Academic Freedom

Summer School
23.06.2025-27.06.2025

THANK YOU

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