



УКРАЇНЬСЬКА ГРОМАДА КВІНСЛЕНДУ
UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY OF QUEENSLAND INC

47 Galsworthy Street, Holland Park West, QLD 4121
PO Box 152, Holland Park, QLD 4121
www.ukrql.com.au | info@ukrql.com.au
ABN 71 729 119 397

MKR Editorial Board

Seven Network
PO Box 777
Pymont
Sydney NSW 2009

Dear Editorial Board,

The Ukrainian Community of Queensland Inc. (UCQ) would like to express their outrage with the recent promotion of your program My Kitchen Rules (MKR) with your presentation of two Russian contestants – Olga and Valeria. We accept that they are free to hold any views on Russia.

We don't accept that Channel 7 promotes and supports the view that Russian military ambitions is something to admire and promote, particularly in the view of the recent geopolitical events. We would like to point only to some of them, while the whole promo invokes much more complex emotions and thoughts.

1. Two Russians are portrayed in front of the red banner with the symbols of the hammer and sickle – a symbol of the country that does not exist anymore and has been known in the world as the “Prison of Nations”. Prison, because it invaded many countries and subjugated their citizens, deprived them of freedom and people were persecuted on the grounds of not being Russians or not following the Communist Party line. Ask the Hungarians that were invaded in 1956, the former-Czechoslovakians that were invaded in 1968 or the Ukrainians, that were invaded most recently in 2014, with the annexation of Crimea and a war still being waged in the eastern parts of Ukraine. Ask Syrians that have been gassed or bombed in 2017. The list can go on. Georgia has been invaded in 2008 and divided into two. Putin declared the dissolution of the Soviet Union the “Greatest tragedy of the 20th century” – not the WWI or WWII or the genocide of Jews and other peoples, but the dissolution of the Soviet Union. And now Channel 7 is promoting this bloodthirsty country with its symbols.
2. It might seem funny for you, but not to all those nations and their people, when Olga and Valeria declare “The Cold War is coming” and then “First we take on MKR and then on the world” with the map of Australia on their table looking like a map of war. We appreciate this is intended as a joke, but as they say, every joke has an element of truth in it. Is this what Channel 7 stands for?

3. Russia and Mr Putin, whose portrait is so prominent in your promo, were recognised by the International Court as the state and the Commander in Chief who caused the shooting of MH17 in 2014 and where 33 Australians perished, among many others. Have you thought what relatives of those Australians may feel watching your promo? Do you remember how Mr Putin was ostracized by the G20 leaders during the summit in Australia? Or has the anticipation of potential profit blinded you completely?
4. You may not know, but during 1933-35 Holodomor in Ukraine, around 5 million Ukrainians perished because of the man-made famine of the Soviet state – Professor Timothy Snyder and the prominent journalist Anne Applebaum have written extensively on the topic and you might like to consult their books.
5. Finally, there a poster with Stalin on the wall too – another executioner of millions of people.

UCQ would appreciate your reply to our letter and we hope that you explain your position on this matter publicly too so other Australians are enlightened on it.

Yours Sincerely,

Nataliya Murad
UCQ Secretary