

Laura Loomer meets Volodymyr Zelenskyy after pro-Ukraine conversion

Far-right influencer abandoned opposition to war to praise Kyiv's resilience against Russian aggression



Laura Loomer on a visit to Ukraine. She had until recently been telling her millions of followers that the country was corrupt, undeserving of US support and led by a 'Jihadi apologist' © @LauraLoomer/X

Christopher Miller in Kyiv

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Far-right activist Laura Loomer has met Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy inside the president's ceremonial residence, capping her journey from trenchant critic of Kyiv to one of its biggest champions in the Maga movement.

One of President Donald Trump's favourite influencers, Loomer had until recently been telling her millions of followers that Ukraine was corrupt, undeserving of US support and led by a "Jihadi apologist".

But she has abandoned what were Kremlin-friendly narratives to praise Ukraine's resilience in fighting Russian aggression, even travelling to Kyiv this month to show her solidarity.

On Thursday she met Zelenskyy in the Mariyinsky Palace, according to two presidential office officials.

Late on Thursday in Kyiv, Loomer confirmed her interview with Zelenskyy, [posting a photo](#) of the two of them together in the palace's garden. She also shared a [clip from her interview](#) with the president in which he discusses the Oval Office meeting with Trump in February 2025 and how he and his American counterpart got their relationship back on track.

Zelenskyy credited the meeting with Trump on April 26 last year, at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican during the funeral of Pope Francis, with turning things around.

Recalling the "historic moment", Zelenskyy said "we changed relations in 15-20 minutes". He told Loomer that "the tone has changed, absolutely," between the pair since that moment.

Laura Loomer 

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The sit-down, during which Loomer complimented Zelenskyy on his black suit, marked a stark 180-degree turn in how she viewed and spoke about the Ukrainian leader.

Overnight, Trump himself gave Loomer his approval of the meeting. "Very good!!!" he wrote in a post on Truth Social that was [reshared](#) by the far-right activist on X.

"I did say these things about Ukraine and Zelenskyy and I am not deleting my posts because I've realized, I was wrong," Loomer posted on X when she arrived in Kyiv on Monday.

The post followed a [video](#) of herself travelling aboard Ukraine's famous blue-and-yellow trains. "I'm not in Russia because I'm not a propagandist," read the text — in Russian — accompanying the post.

Loomer's apparent shift is striking both for her proximity to Trump and her prominence on the American far right, with an audience deeply sceptical of US support for the country.

With the president still appearing to take her advice on everything from policy to personnel, her public embrace of Ukraine has raised the question of whether her Ukraine shift could help reshape opinions on the American far right.

Few activists without a government role enjoy the access to Trump that Loomer has. That appears to have helped her to connect with senior officials in Kyiv, including Zelenskyy himself.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, first deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office, met Loomer on Wednesday and showed her around the nearly 1,000-year-old grounds of one of the holiest sites of the Eastern Orthodox faith.

"It was interesting to sit down and talk to @LauraLoomer and then to go to Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra," he said. Their visit came a month after a Russian drone strike on the monastery burned the roof of one of its cathedrals.

Loomer posted a video from inside the cathedral, which she called "absolutely gorgeous" and "incredible".

"The Russians fired two Shahed drones at this monastery," she said, zooming in to show the boarded windows in its dome. "Vladimir Putin constantly portrays Russia as some savior of Christianity . . . Well, if you care about Christianity so much, why would you drone the oldest monastery in Ukraine?"

Loomer also [visited](#) a McDonald's restaurant in Kyiv — the first one opened after the fall of the Soviet Union — that has been repeatedly damaged by Russian attacks.

Posing against the backdrop of buildings destroyed by Russian missiles in recent attacks while eating a burger and fries, she praised "Ukrainian resilience" which she observed "remains undiminished".

It remains unclear what exactly prompted Loomer's apparent change of heart. "To those who are asking, no, the government of Ukraine didn't pay for my trip to Ukraine [sic]," she wrote on X.

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