

NEWSLETTER

for the Members of the International
Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children



Regional
Center for
Human Rights

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More about the stories of the returned Ukrainian children can be found here:



Statistics on Returns

1,859

As of the end of
November 2025

Children returned from deportation, forcible transfer, or temporarily occupied territories

82

Children returned in November 2025

An estimated

1.6 mln

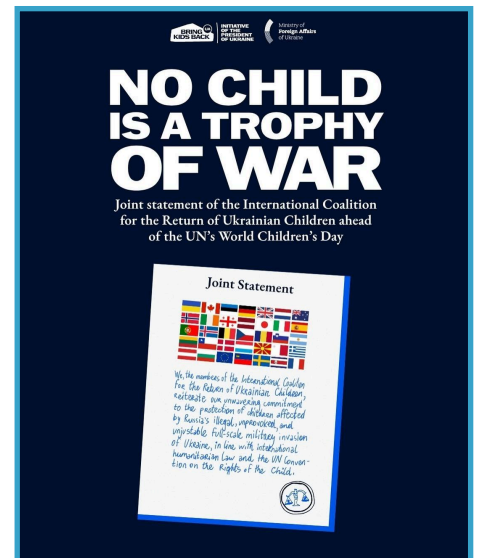
Ukrainian children remain under the effective control of the Russian Federation

International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children Issues Joint Statement ahead of the UN’s World Children’s Day

On the occasion of the UN’s World Children’s Day, the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children [has issued](#) a joint statement reaffirming that every child has the inalienable right to safety, family, and homeland.

The Coalition expressed full support for Ukraine’s efforts to locate and return every child abducted by Russia. Its members called for immediate international access to places where Ukrainian children are being held, stronger global tracing mechanisms, immediate and unconditional return, as well as accountability for those responsible. The Statement also highlights the need for rehabilitation and psychosocial support for returned children and their families.

Ahead of the UN’s World Children’s Day, the Coalition underlined: “no child is a trophy of war.”



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Signs Decree to Strengthen Protection of Children Affected by War

On 25 November, the President of Ukraine [signed](#) Decree No. 859/2025 introducing additional measures to protect the rights of all children affected by the war, including those injured, displaced, living under occupation, and unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia. The decree prioritizes access to healthcare, inclusive education, family-based care, and psychosocial adaptation services. The government is tasked with improved coordination, legal reforms, and enhanced support for war-affected children and their families.

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Ukrainian Children Victims of Russian Crimes Meet the Pope

A Ukrainian delegation of child survivors and their family members, all affected by Russian captivity, occupation, and unlawful deportation testified in Italy and the Vatican. This is the first time Bring Kids Back UA has brought such a large group of witnesses abroad. Their testimonies aim to raise global awareness and support efforts to bring all Ukrainian children back safely, including via strengthened mediation engagement.

The delegation met His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to discuss the urgent need to protect children and reunite families torn apart by the war.



Photo: Vatican Media

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Joins International Coalition for Return of Ukrainian Children



Photo: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has announced that it will join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, becoming its 45th member.

The announcement was made by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons Sampietro during his intervention in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. He stressed that the deportation and forced Russification of Ukrainian children is a war crime and causes profound trauma for an entire generation.

This move highlights growing international support for efforts to bring all abducted Ukrainian children home. As more states and institutions join the cause, pressure on Russia increases, bringing the return of every child closer to reality.

Ukraine Celebrates First “Better Care Awards” on the UN’s World Children’s Day

On 20 November 2025, Ukraine marked the UN’s World Children’s Day by presenting the first national “Better Care Awards: A Family for Every Child” in Kyiv. The awards honor individuals, communities, organizations, and businesses that provide safety, care, and support for children.

This year, 367 nominees were recognized for rescuing children from captivity, supporting social reintegration, creating accessible opportunities for youth with disabilities, and serving as foster or guardianship caregivers. The event, organized with the support of the Olena Zelenska Foundation, highlighted the importance of ensuring every child grows up surrounded by love and protection, even in times of war.

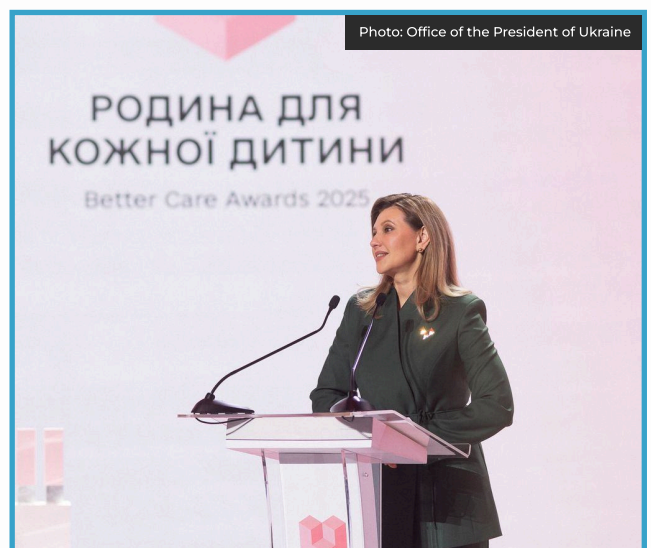


Photo: Office of the President of Ukraine

Sweden Hosts High-Level Meeting on Abducted Ukrainian Children

On 24 November 2025, a high-level meeting on Ukrainian children abducted by Russia [took place](#) in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm.



The event aimed to gather distinguished politicians, experts and institutions addressing this issue, to raise awareness and develop measures to guarantee the unconditional return of the children.

The participants included Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Andreas Norlén, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Ruslan Stefanchuk, representatives of the Council of Europe and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as Nathaniel Raymond from Yale University.

Ukraine Charges Another Five Over Deportation of 367 Children to Russia



On 20 November 2025, Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General [announced](#) charges against five officials of the so-called Donetsk people republic and three collaborators for the unlawful deportation of 367 Ukrainian children from Donetsk to Russia.

Investigators found that the operation was planned in advance, with orders to stop schooling and evacuate children from two orphanages to Russia in February–March 2022. Children were transported to the Rostov and Kursk regions, and at least 159 remain placed with Russian families.

Russian Woman Who Fostered Ukrainian Abducted Kids Accused of Child Trafficking

Irina Rudnitskaya, a founder of a Moscow foster family organization, [has been accused](#) of child trafficking by the Russian authorities. In 2022 she unlawfully fostered Bohdan from Mariupol and Zlata from Donetsk, both deported to Russia.

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Rudnitskaya, a longtime associate of Russia's children's commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova, previously received state awards and public recognition for her work with foster children. Reports suggest the children in her care were held under forced isolation, and their return to Ukraine was deliberately delayed, coordinated with Russian authorities.



Details of the case remain largely undisclosed, with at least two other individuals reportedly involved.

Von der Leyen Pledges International Action to Return Abducted Ukrainian Children

Amid the peace discussions on Ukraine, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen [stressed](#) that the return of all Ukrainian children abducted by Russia must be a central condition of any future peace agreement.



Speaking in her Statement on Peace Discussions for Ukraine, she underlined that no sustainable peace is possible without restoring justice for the most vulnerable victims of Russia's war — tens of thousands of children trapped in Russia. Von der Leyen announced that the EU, together with Ukraine and Canada, will co-host a Summit of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, reaffirming a shared commitment to place their return at the top of the global agenda.

More information can be found here:



<https://www.bringkidsback.org.ua>



<https://rchr.org.ua/en/>