

# SMALL EYES, BIG TRAGEDIES:

Stories of Killed, Deported, Russified





# UKRAINIAN CHILDREN BECOME VICTIMS OF BARBARIC ACTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Since 2014, Russia has been committing war crimes and crimes against humanity on the territory of Ukraine, shelling peaceful cities, civilians, and children.

#### As a result of Russian aggression:

- 664 children killed;
- 2,224 children injured;
- **2,232** children missing;
- 19,546 children deported and forcibly displaced;
- 20 children victims of sexual violence.

Data from the start of the full-scale invasion as of November 11, 2025.



These are not just numbers. Behind each number is the fate of a specific child who should have had a happy childhood, bright dreams, and a peaceful future.

This terrible counter will not stop until the terrorist country continues its genocidal war against Ukraine.

#### RUSSIA IS KILLING UKRAINIAN CHILDREN



Russian terror against the civilian population is something that Ukrainian children are forced to face. Regular missile attacks on residential areas lead to irreparable consequences.

Russia has killed 664 Ukrainian children (as of November 11, 2025).

#### The Deadliest Attack on Children Since the Start of the Full-Scale Invasion

On 4 April 2025, the Russians launched a ballistic missile with a cluster warhead at the city of Kryvyi Rih. The missile exploded in the middle of a residential neighbourhood near a playground.





As a result, 20 people were killed, including 9 children. More than 70 people were injured, including at least 12 children.





People bring flowers and toys to the scene of the tragedy.

A memorial corner with photographs of the deceased students was opened the at grammar local school.





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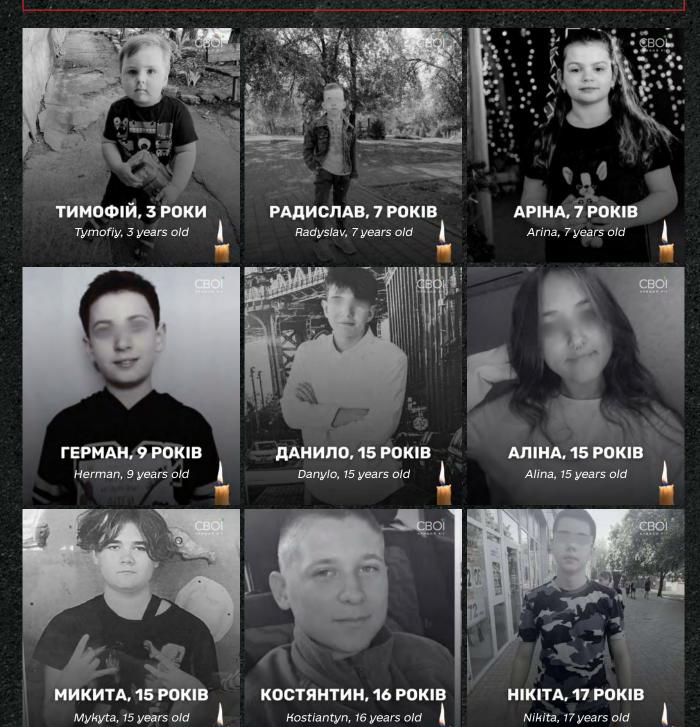
On the same day, the Russian Ministry of Defence acknowledged the missile strike and claimed that they had successfully targeted military personnel and foreign instructors in Kryvyi Rih. **This is a cynical lie.** 

This shelling was the deadliest for children since February 2022, according to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

The youngest child – boy Tymofii – was only three years old.



The father of the deceased boy, Danylo, appealed to world leaders to provide Ukraine with air defence systems so that other Ukrainian children could be protected.



#### Barbaric Attack on Lviv: Seven Dead, Including a Mother with Three Children



On 4 September 2024, the Russian army attacked Lviv with drones and missiles. As a result, more than 180 buildings in the historic part of the city were damaged. **7 people were killed. More than 60 people were injured.** 









Among the victims was the Bazylevych family: mother Yevheniia and her three daughters, 7-year-old Emilia, 18-year-old Daryna, and 21-year-old Yaryna.

Only the father of the family, Yaroslav, survived.





I still feel devastated. I feel like a branch without buds. I feel that evil and injustice reign in the world. We must change this. International law must prevail in the world," Yaroslav said during his speech to members of the US Congress.



# THE RUSSIANS HAVE ATTACKED THE MOST VULNERABLE — SICK CHILDREN!

On 8 July 2024, the Russians committed another act of terrorism against the civilian population of Ukraine. The level of cynicism of this attack is beyond comprehension. The Russian missile was deliberately launched at Ukraine's largest children's hospital, Ohmatdyt, where children with the most complex diagnoses are treated, from severe prematurity to blood cancer.





#### All of the Hospital Buildings were Damaged, and one of them is Beyond Repair.

Every year, the hospital performs about 7,000 complex surgeries. It also provides state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment of oncohematological diseases (hematologic cancers) and performs bone marrow transplants for sick children.



In terms of staff qualifications and equipment, Ohmatdyt is a medical institution of European and, probably, world level. There were about 600 patients and the same number of medical staff in the hospital when the attack took place.







When the missile hit Ohmatdyt, three heart surgeries were going on in the hospital, one of them with an open chest. The doctors kept going even after the strike.

The shock wave threw the cardiac surgeon onto the operating table, but he and his colleague, the anaesthesiologist, managed to switch the baby to manual artificial respiration and evacuate to another hospital to complete the surgery.





Children who are fighting for their lives against disease are also forced to hide from Russian missiles.



The young patients are awaiting transfer to another hospital.

Due to the shelling, diseased children are deprived of the opportunity to receive quality treatment using professional equipment. It will take a long time to restore expensive equipment. This will have long-term consequences for diseased children.



**Two-year-old Mykyta,** who has Lyell's syndrome, is one of the victims of the attack on the hospital.

#### RUSSIA'S MAIN PRODUCT IS DEATH



Russia exports death with missiles and drones directly at residential buildings. The city of Kyiv, with a population of over a million, suffers from such attacks on a regular basis.



**KYIV** (August, 2025). Five-storey building. Four children killed.

On that day, Russia committed mass murder in Kyiv. Twenty-five civilians were killed, including four children. Among the dead were two-year-old Anhelina and her 24-year-old mother Nadiia. They died in their apartment when the entire stairwell of their five-story building was destroyed.

KHERSON REGION (July, 2025).

Private house.

One-year-old boy killed.

Russia is conducting a 'safari' on people, pursuing and killing them with drones. Another such crime occurred in the village of Pravdyne. A drone dropped explosives directly into a yard where a one-year-old boy was playing. The child died on the spot. A local resident was also injured.





## POKROVSKY DISTRICT (January, 2024). Private sector.

Five children were killed.

**KHARKIV** (May, 2024). Shopping mall.

#### Two children killed.

Among the dead were a mother and her 12-year-old daughter. The whole family, except for the older daughter, went shopping on their day off. However, the mother and daughter never returned. The girl's father survived and was taken to hospital.





**ODESA** (March, 2024). Residential building.

## A woman and her four-month-old son were killed.

While dismantling the rubble of a destroyed building, rescuers found the body of a four-month-old baby in his mother's arms. They were killed by a Russian drone. The baby's father, who managed to escape, hoped for a miracle. But the man lost both his wife and child. He was left with a young daughter. As a result of that night attack, four people were killed and seven more were injured.



While clearing the rubble, rescuers from the SES

found photographs

of the boy's family

#### **KYIV** (July, 2024). Residential building. **Five children killed.**

Among the victims was the family of 10-year-old Maksym, who practised karate and was a prize-winner in city and national competitions. He was found in the bathroom with his mother Zoriana and younger sister Nastia. 'Ukraine has not only lost a child. It has lost a future athlete who could have become a member of the Olympic team,' says Maksym's coach Serhiy Pinchuk.



ZAPORIZHZHIA (March, 2024). Private house.

An eight-year-old girl died.

This little girl loved to draw and do gymnastics. However, a Russian missile hit her bedroom where she was resting with her father. After the explosion, the girl's grandmother, who lives in the house opposite, rushed to dig out her son and granddaughter with her bare hands. The woman hoped to the last that they had managed to hide in the basement. Unfortunately, they both died. The child was less than two months shy of her ninth birthday.





KHARKIV (February, 2024). Private sector.

Three brothers aged 7, 3 and 10 months died together with their parents.

One night, a young family — a mother, father and three young sons — were killed in their own home as a result of an attack by Russian drones. "Let all of Russia see what they have done! I will never forgive them. For my children, for my grandchildren. What did they do wrong?" said the grieving grandmother at the funeral.



### UKRAINIAN CHILDREN SUFFER INJURIES AS A RESULT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Not a single child in the world should have to experience the cruelty of war! And all those who give and carry out commands that lead to the deaths and injuries of children must bear the highest responsibility!

2,224 children have been injured as a result of Russia's aggression (as of November 11, 2025).

#### KHERSON REGION (May, 2025).

A 10-year-old girl was injured in Bilozerka, Kherson region, as a result of Russian artillery shelling. The child was trapped under rubble after a shell hit her house directly. The girl was pulled from the rubble and taken to hospital. She was diagnosed with blast and traumatic brain injuries, concussion, and shrapnel wounds to her legs.





#### **KHARKIV REGION** (January, 2024).

The 10-year-old Sashko and his cousin Alina were on their way to the grocery store. At that moment, a Russian shell landed near the children. The boy kept his severed leg pressed to his body to prevent it from bleeding. Unfortunately, his sister did not survive.

### KHARKIV REGION (July, 2023).

A man carries a child out of a house damaged by a Russian missile attack.





### Suburbs of **KHERSON** (November, 2023).

A 2-month-old girl was seriously injured as a result of Russian attack. The child was diagnosed with a closed head injury, concussion, bruised lungs and kidneys.







#### **ODESA** (May, 2022).

This is 7-year-old Sasha. A Russian missile struck the building where the girl was with her mother. Sasha was taken to the hospital with multiple injuries — the child had to have her lower limb amputated. She faced seven months of rehabilitation, two prostheses, and a lot more pain and tears.

But even that did not stop the girl from doing what she loves most – gymnastics. Sasha continues to compete, win awards, and inspire other children who have also lost limbs as a result of Russian aggression.



# THE UKRAINIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS SUFFERED GREATLY AS A RESULT OF RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION

educational institutions have been damaged by bombing and shelling. 400 of them have been completely destroyed (as of November 11, 2025).



A destroyed school in the village of Cherkaska Lozova in the Kharkiv region.

The aggressor claims that it is targeting only military facilities in our country. However, this is a blatant lie — **every seventh school in Ukraine has been destroyed or damaged.** In addition, throughout Ukraine, children are sent to shelters during air raid alerts, and this is very stressful for them and prevents them from learning effectively.



Students dance a graduation waltz in the yard of their bombed school in Chernihiv.

## DEPORTATION OF CHILDREN — A TARGETED POLICY OF GENOCIDE



19,546 children were deported and forcibly transferred to Russia. The actual number of deported Ukrainian children may be significantly higher.

Russia refuses to provide information to Ukraine, other states, or international organizations, and also blocks humanitarian access by international missions to the occupied territories and places where children are located in the Russian Federation.

The forced relocation and deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia began back in 2014. In particular, 12 such cases were recorded at that time as part of Russia's so-called social project, "Train of Hope." And in 2015, Russian citizens unlawfully adopted 43 orphaned children from occupied Crimea.

Six days before the full-scale invasion, Russia began the mass deportation of Ukrainian children. By the morning of February 19, more than 2,700 children, mostly from orphanages and boarding schools, had been taken to Russia.

Since February 24, 2022, this has taken on new and horrific proportions! This is a gross violation of fundamental children's rights and international law, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The mass kidnapping of children and attempts to assimilate them into a foreign culture constitute genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This Convention has been ratified by the Russian Federation itself!





The occupiers are taking Ukrainian children out of the temporarily occupied territories and making every effort to re-educate them and erase their national identity!

Journalists from The New York Times found that the occupation authorities transferred 46 children from the orphanage during the occupation of Kherson. The orphanage staff hid the children in the basement of a church, but in April 2022, the Russian military found them and forcibly displaced them.

Russian-appointed "director" of the Kherson Children's Home and Russian deputy in occupied Kherson in August 2022.





Ukrainian children from Berdyansk in the Chuvash Republic, June 2024.

In June 2024, it was revealed that Russian invaders had taken another group of 43 children from the temporarily occupied Berdyansk to the so-called vacation in Chuvashia. There, the children are obviously subjected to intensive cultural and ideological influence.

#### Forced Transfer of Ukrainian Children to Russian Families

One of the most dangerous consequences of deportation is the forced transfer of Ukrainian children to Russian families, which began with the annexation of Crimea and intensified with the start of the fullscale invasion.

Ukrainian children on Russian adoption websites.

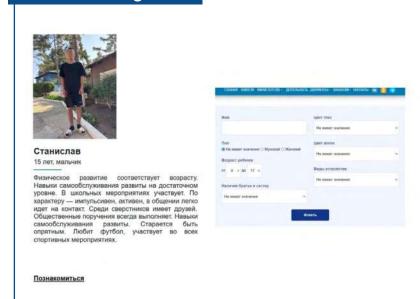






In April 2024, a Russian woman took custody of a boy who, along with his brother and sister, had been taken from the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region to Russia and placed in a boarding school in the Moscow region. The Russian woman refused to take the child's brother and sister. As a result, the boy was adopted, and his first name, last name, patronymic, and place of birth were changed, despite the child's resistance.

Occupants have created a "database" of Ukrainian children: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, has appealed to law enforcement agencies



An online resource belonging to the occupiers has been discovered where one can "choose" a Ukrainian child from the temporarily occupied territories based on their description, hair color, and eye color. As if they were not people, but goods.

Dmytro Lubinets has sent letters to law enforcement agencies requesting an appropriate response. Such actions violate children's rights and may constitute human trafficking!

#### Russia has posted four abducted Ukrainian children on an adoption website

Financial Times journalists have discovered that Russia abducted four children from Ukraine in the first months of its full-scale invasion and unlawfully put them up for adoption. They found the children on a Russian adoption website. The abducted children are between 8 and 15 years old, and their identities have been confirmed by their families and the Ukrainian authorities. The Russians changed the children's names and ages on the website and did not indicate their Ukrainian origin to make identification more difficult.





## ■ ERASING THE UKRAINIAN IDENTITY OF CHILDREN IN TOT

After the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for the President of the Russian Federation and the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, they realized that the whole world's attention was focused on the issue of the abduction of Ukrainian children. Therefore, the occupying authorities intensified the violent Russification and re-education of children in the temporarily occupied territories.

#### FORCED RUSIFICATION OF EDUCATION



Through total indoctrination, forced assimilation, identity change, brainwashing, and control, Russia is carrying out a policy of genocide against Ukrainians.

Human Rights Watch has published a report on Russia's violations of international law regarding the right to education in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, where approximately one million Ukrainian schoolchildren reside, as well as in the previously occupied Kharkiv region.

The occupying authorities are imposing a Russian school curriculum that is steeped in blatant anti-Ukrainian propaganda. History textbooks justify the Russian invasion and portray modern Ukraine as a "Neo-Nazi state."

Russian textbooks brought by the occupying authorities to a school in the village of Borova in Kharkiv region, Ukraine, 2022.



## The report describes horrific violations of the rights of children and participants in the educational process!



- In occupied Melitopol, a student was punished for speaking Ukrainian at school. A bag was pulled over his head, he was taken several dozens of kilometers away to another district and left to fend for himself. He was forced to return home on his own.
- Teachers are subjected to pressure and torture, as in the case of a school principal in Kharkiv region, who was unlawfully detained and tortured for refusing to hand over school documents.
- Parents whose children are studying remotely under the Ukrainian curriculum are being threatened and forced to send their children to "Russian" schools. Because of this, some parents have been forced to hide their children.
- Schoolers are forced to undergo military training.
- Schools are required to report students who have reached the age of majority and may be mobilized into the Russian army.



In this open-air cell at the police station in Kupiansk, Kharkiv region, the Russian occupying authorities held Ukrainians, including education workers.



In schools in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, school teachers are being replaced or retrained, which some Russian politicians openly refer to as a "purge."

Lesson: "Russia in the World." Skadovsk, Kherson region.



The extracurricular education program for children in the temporarily occupied territories, "Conversations About Important Things," has been in effect since September 2022 and was introduced by the Russian Ministry of Education. On October 3, 2024, the Russian president approved a proposal to extend "Conversations About Important Things" to kindergartens for children aged five and older.

- Classes are held every Monday after the mandatory assembly, which includes singing the Russian anthem and raising the Russian flag. These "talks" are part of the aggressor country's "patriotic education."
- These classes often serve as a point of contact between children and Russian politicians who come to the children's classes.



- Russian public holidays and commemorative dates are also marked by so-called "lessons in courage," where the Russian army is glorified.
- The purpose of these classes is to "instill respect for the Russian Armed Forces" and prepare children to join the Russian army. Russian veterans who participated in the wars in Afghanistan or the so-called "special military operation" often participate in these classes.
- At the end of the "lessons in courage," children are often forced to write letters of support for Russian soldiers for seizing Ukrainian lands.

#### **MILITARIZATION**

Militarization of childhood: a deliberate policy of re-educating Ukrainian children in the temporarily occupied territories.





The policy of militarizing children by Russian occupiers is systematic in nature and has only intensified since the full-scale invasion. It is part of the Russian Federation's strategy to destroy Ukrainians as a nation.

Since September 2023, schools in the temporarily occupied territories have been running a "cadet class" program. These militarized classes are being opened with the participation of the "United Russia" political party, the Russian Guard, and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.



Cadets undergo physical and military training, which will enable them to serve in the Russian army when they grow up. Education in "love for the motherland" begins in the first grade. An entire system of extracurricular activities has been created for this purpose.

The "Movement of the First" consolidates the majority of Russian youth organizations, including "Yunarmiya," "the Russian Schoolchildren's Movement," "Big Break," and others. Its declared mission is the "comprehensive patriotic upbringing of children.

Some of the first centers were opened in December 2022 in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. The organization uses the same symbols as the Russian army in combat operations: "Z", "V" and the "St. George ribbon".



Donetsk schoolers join the "Yunarmia".



militarized "Yunarmiya" is a movement founded by the former Minister of Defence of the Russian "Yunarmiya" Federation. cells appeared in the temporarily occupied November territories in 2022. "Yunarmiya" members receive full military training, including firearms training, learn how to assemble and disassemble Kalashnikov assault rifles, and are introduced to Russian military personnel.

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#### COMPULSORY PASSPORTISATION





Ukrainian children are being given Russian passports in occupied Henichesk.

Another tool for forcibly transferring children from one group to another is imposing Russian citizenship on them, which is done by putting pressure on their parents. According to Russian law, a child's citizenship depends on the citizenship of their parents.

Refusal to accept a Russian passport is punishable by dismissal from work, termination of social benefits for children, denial of medical services, and confiscation of property. Coercive measures also include threats to take children away from their parents.

The occupiers issue passports to children from the temporarily occupied territories in a particularly solemn manner. Sometimes they are taken thousands of kilometers to Moscow or St. Petersburg for this purpose. The contrived grandeur of this process is designed to give children the impression that they are becoming part of something significant, concealing the true intentions and manipulating their consciousness.

The forced issuance of passports is an attempt to change the national identity of Ukrainian children and subjugate the population of the temporarily occupied territories.

# OCCUPANTS EXECUTED UKRAINIAN MINORS

In May 2023, **Tigran Oganesyan and Nikita Khanganov**, minors born in 2006 and residents of occupied Berdyansk, were charged by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation with allegedly preparing sabotage on the railway. They were charged with "violating" an article that carries a sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison.

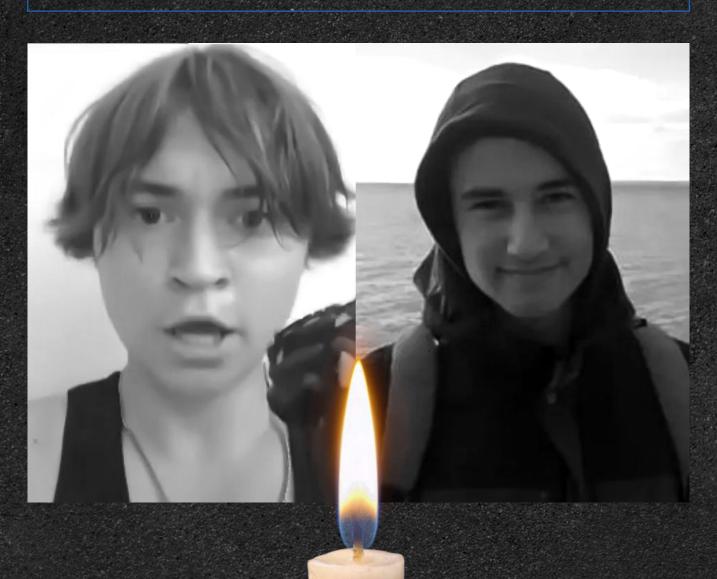
Tigran was brutally interrogated and tortured for five days. The teenager was forced to confess to preparing sabotage.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Tigran Oganesyan and Nikita Khanganov and demanded that the occupiers release them from captivity.

Despite this, on June 24, 2023, Russian occupiers in Berdyansk killed Ukrainian teenagers!

The Russian side refused to return the bodies of the deceased boys to their parents or the Ukrainian side. The Russians probably secretly buried the bodies of the boys.

10n July 19, 2025, the President of Ukraine posthumously awarded Tigran and Nikita the Order of Freedom.





# WE WORK ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA TO RESTORE JUSTICE AND THE RIGHTS OF OUR CHILDREN

- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has recognized Russia's actions as genocide against the Ukrainian people. The document calls on the 53 OSCE participating States to make efforts to de-occupy Crimea and all occupied territories of Ukraine by supporting the Peace Formula and the Crimean Platform. 43 participants, as well as the European Union and 4 countries as observers.
  - The International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children now has 44 members and 4 countries as observers. The work to return Ukrainian children, civilian hostages, and prisoners of war from the Russian Federation continues every day! Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets is working to achieve this as part of the implementation of point 4 of the President of Ukraine's Peace Formula. On August 5, 2025, the Coalition issued a statement calling on the Russian Federation to ensure the return of all unlawfully deported and forcibly displaced Ukrainian children.



About 80 countries and international organizations have joined the communiqué of the first Global Peace Summit. third point declares a shared vision that all prisoners of war should be released through a full exchange. All deported and unlawfully. Displaced Ukrainian children, as well as all other Ukrainian civilians who have been unlawfully detained, should be returned to Ukraine.



# UKRAINE IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO BRING CHILDREN HOME!



As of November 11, 2025, Ukraine has returned 1,797 children.

Working to return deported Ukrainian children is one of Ukraine's priorities. date. 1,797 children have returned from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and from the territory of the Russian Federation within the framework of the approved action plan of the President of Ukraine, Bring Kids Back UA. This initiative brings together the efforts of state bodies, NGOs, and international Ukrainian partners. The Parliament Commissioner's Office is actively involved in the return process.



The State of Qatar plays a significant role in the return of children. Thanks to Qatar's mediation, 83 children have already been returned from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

A touching story of reunion: a father released from captivity hears his daughter's voice for the first time after she was recently returned from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

The defender spent three years in Russian captivity. He is the father of 15-year-old Sofia, whose return from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine was facilitated by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner's Office as part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative.

We were approached by the defender's mother, the girl's grandmother. We helped her obtain guardianship of her granddaughter. And in March, with the mediation of the State of Qatar, she was finally reunited with her granddaughter. Two months later, another step towards healing the family was taken: the father, a freed Ukrainian defender, heard his daughter's voice for the first time in a long time.





territories and Russia:

The youngest child returned is 10 years old, and the oldest is 17.



The story of one family: the mother of a 13-year-old girl was returned from enemy captivity in April 2023. Her child was staying with her grandmother in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region.

The girl was really keen to find out how to get to her mom and live with her. After a lot of hard work, we managed to do everything we could to get the family back together! For the first time since the full-scale invasion started, mom and kid got to see each other!

#### We managed to bring 13 Ukrainian children back to their homeland!

Seven of them were returned from the temporarily occupied territories, and six more were returned as part of the implementation of the approved action plan of the President of Ukraine, Bring Kids Back UA.

One of those returned is a 15-year-old girl from Mariupol. Her story is deeply moving. Her house was hit by a Russian tank, so she and her mother found shelter in a church, until the girl was wounded in the head by rocket debris. After numerous attempts and efforts to leave for territory controlled by Ukraine, the family finally succeeded.



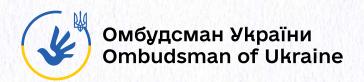


All returned children are interviewed at the Child Rights Protection Center, which operates under the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner's Office in Kyiv. It plays a significant role in the process of supporting and reintegrating children after their return to Ukraine.

One of the key functions of the Center is to document and record violations of the rights of children who have suffered as a result of military actions and occupation. **This space operates according to the Barnahus model.** Similar spaces have also been opened in three other Ukrainian cities: Lutsk, Dnipro, and Rivne.

Thousands of our children remain in deportation. Current efforts to return Ukrainian children taken to Russia are focused on finding and identifying these children. It is also important to involve other countries in exerting pressure on Russia.





We call on all countries that share universal human values to unite and take action to return deported and forcibly displaced Ukrainian children!

Every child deserves a safe childhood in their homeland.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine must be stopped to ensure a peaceful future for our children. The Russian Federation must be held accountable for every crime committed!

#### How can international partners help Ukraine?

- Join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children and actively participate in its activities.
- Increase sanctions pressure on the aggressor country and officials involved in crimes.
- Support Ukraine in bringing those responsible to justice.
- Support the reintegration and rehabilitation processes for children.



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