

CHILDREN: THE CRIME WITH A WARRANT FOR THE HEAD OF STATE

Since 2022 Russia has moved Ukrainian children from occupied territory into camps, foster families and adoption inside Russia, issued them passports and, in most cases, told their relatives nothing. Ukraine has recorded 20,651 cases and brought 2,665 children home. The ICC issued arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and his children's commissioner in March 2023; in March 2026 the UN Commission of Inquiry found the deportations to be crimes against humanity.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against the ICC (17 Mar 2023), the Commission of Inquiry (A/HRC/52/62; A/78/540; A/HRC/61/61 and the Chair's statement of 12 Mar 2026), the ECtHR Grand Chamber (9 Jul 2025), the OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023), Yale HRL (Feb 2023, Dec 2024), the designating governments' releases and the Ombudsman's data of 7 Oct 2026. Photos: Wikimedia Commons, licences checked; minors blurred.

20,651

recorded cases of children deported or forcibly transferred; 2,363 more listed as missing **B**

Ombudsman's Office / 'Children of War' portal, as of 7 Oct 2026

2,665

children returned to Ukraine since 2022 — 83 through Qatar's mediation, 30 with the US First Lady's involvement **B**

Ombudsman's Office, 7 Oct 2026

1,205

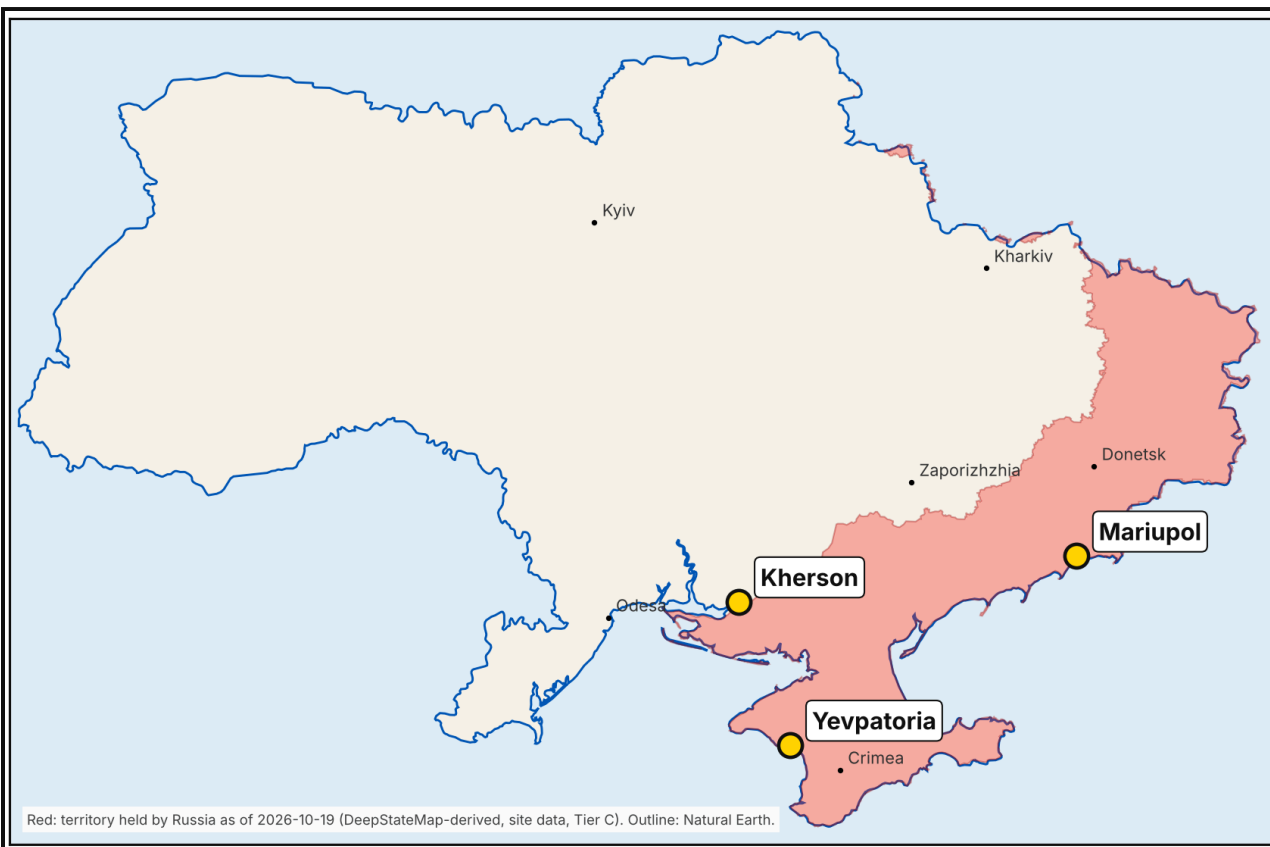
children whose deportation or transfer the UN Commission of Inquiry has verified; about 80% have not come back **A**

Commission of Inquiry, A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement, 12 Mar 2026

2

ICC arrest warrants — Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova — for unlawful deportation and transfer of children **A**

ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II, 17 Mar 2023



BOTTOM LINE

A policy, not an accident. The UN Commission of Inquiry (12 Mar 2026) found a policy 'conceived and executed at the highest level' of the Russian government: children taken from five occupied oblasts and placed with families or in institutions in 21 Russian regions and in occupied areas.

Crimes with names attached. The ICC found reasonable grounds to believe Putin and Lvova-Belova are responsible for the war crimes of unlawful deportation and transfer; the Commission of Inquiry qualifies the same conduct as crimes against humanity; the European Court of Human Rights found violations of Articles 3, 5 and 8 and ordered a reunification mechanism.

Russia's own numbers are the admission. Lvova-Belova's office reported in July 2023 that more than 700,000 Ukrainian children had 'arrived' in Russia, that about 1,500 orphans had been taken from occupied Donetsk and Luhansk and that 380 had been placed with Russian foster families.

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

UNLAWFUL DEPORTATION AND TRANSFER OF CHILDREN — ESTABLISHED (ICC WARRANTS, 17 MAR 2023; COI; ECTHR)

CAMPS, RE-EDUCATION, PASSPORTS, ADOPTION — PATTERN (COI; OSCE; YALE HRL)

GENOCIDE, ART. 442 CCU / ART. II(E) GENOCIDE CONVENTION — POSITION (UKRAINE)

Established. ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II (17 Mar 2023): reasonable grounds to believe Putin and Lvova-Belova are responsible for unlawful deportation and transfer of children from occupied Ukraine. Commission of Inquiry: the transfers examined 'amount to a war crime' (Mar 2023); deportation, forcible transfer and enforced disappearance of children are crimes against humanity (A/HRC/61/61, Mar 2026). ECtHR Grand Chamber (9 Jul 2025): violations of Arts. 3, 5 and 8 ECHR. **Pattern.** OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023): separations at filtration points are grave breaches. Yale HRL: 43 facilities, most running re-education (Feb 2023); 314 children in coerced adoption (Dec 2024). **Position.** Ukraine qualifies the transfers as war crimes and genocide (Arts. 438, 442 CCU); no international body has adopted the genocide qualification.

WHAT WE ASK

Execute the ICC warrants: no state party should host Putin or Lvova-Belova. Fund and staff the identification and reunification mechanism the ECtHR ordered on 9 July 2025. Make the return of children a condition of any ceasefire framework. Align national listings with the US designations of 24 Aug 2023 — camp directors, regional commissioners, 'youth' organisations.

Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHGP; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

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FROM 'EVACUATION' TO A RUSSIAN PASSPORT

The route is the same in every oblast: removal from occupied territory under the name of evacuation, holiday or treatment; placement in a camp or institution; re-education; a Russian passport; and, for the youngest, a Russian family. What is missing at every step is the child's family being told.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

OCT 2026

Feb 2022	Deportations begin shortly before the full-scale invasion: institutionalised children moved out of occupied Donetsk and Luhansk into Russia. A — Commission of Inquiry, Chair's statement, 12 Mar 2026
Mar - May 2022	Children from Mariupol pass through 'filtration'; families separated at filtration points; 31 children transferred from Ukraine to Russia in May 2022 — later found to be unlawful deportation. A — OSCE Moscow Mechanism, 4 May 2023; COI A/78/540, Oct 2023
30 May 2022	Putin decree: simplified Russian citizenship for Ukrainian orphans and children 'without parental care', on application by a guardian or the head of the institution holding the child. RUSSIA SAYS — Ukrainska Pravda, 30 May 2022; COI A/HRC/52/62
16 Jun - 15 Sep 2022	UK (16 Jun), EU (21 Jul) and US (15 Sep) sanction Lvova-Belova for the forced transfer and adoption of Ukrainian children. A — FCDO; EU Council; OFAC
16 Mar 2023	Commission of Inquiry: transfers of 164 children examined in detail; the situations examined 'amount to a war crime'. A — A/HRC/52/62
17 Mar 2023	ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II issues arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova. Peskov: ICC decisions 'null and void' for Russia. Lvova-Belova: 'glad the international community has appreciated our work'. A — ICC press release; RFE/RL; PassBlue
31 Jul 2023	Lvova-Belova's office publishes a 500-page report: 4.8 million Ukrainians 'accommodated' since 2022, of whom more than 700,000 children; about 1,500 orphans from Donetsk and Luhansk; 380 placed with Russian foster families. RUSSIA SAYS — Novaya Gazeta Europe; Ukrinform
2 Jun 2025	Istanbul talks: Ukraine hands Russia a list of 339 children. Medinsky: children 'caught between two fires have been evacuated, but if there is a family — they are returned back'. RUSSIA SAYS — TASS via Mezha; Novaya Gazeta Europe
9 Jul 2025	ECtHR Grand Chamber, Ukraine and Netherlands v. Russia: the transfer and adoption of Ukrainian children violated Articles 3, 5 and 8; Russia ordered to cooperate in a mechanism to identify and reunify them. A — ECtHR; ASIL
12 Mar 2026 · 7 Oct 2026	Commission of Inquiry: deportation of 1,205 verified children a crime against humanity; about 80% not returned. Ombudsman, 7 Oct 2026: 20,651 recorded cases; 2,665 children returned. A — A/HRC/61/61; Ombudsman via Ukrinform

WHAT THE UN ESTABLISHED

The Commission of Inquiry verified the deportation or transfer of 1,205 children from five occupied oblasts, starting shortly before 24 February 2022 and carried out coercively; Russian authorities at various levels arranged long-term placement with families or in institutions in 21 Russian regions and in occupied Ukraine, and in 2022 repeatedly said they prioritised adoption (12 Mar 2026).

In most cases families were not told the children's fate or whereabouts — enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity. Russia has obstructed returns; about 80% of the verified children have not come back, and parents, guardians and relatives are still searching (COI, Mar 2026).



"Bring Ukrainian children back!" — demonstration in Berlin, 24 Aug 2025. Photo: Roy Zuo · CC BY-SA 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHPG; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

WHO THE CHILDREN ARE

Children from institutions in occupied Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia — orphanages, boarding schools, hospitals — moved as groups; the 52 children of the Oleshky orphanage taken to Crimea appear in Russia's own report. Children separated from parents at filtration points during the fall of Mariupol (OSCE).

Children placed for adoption or fostering: 314 identified by Yale HRL by December 2024, more than half placed directly with Russian citizens; Russia's own count was 380 foster placements by mid-2023. Children sent to 'holiday camps' by parents under occupation and not returned: 43 facilities identified by Yale HRL in February 2023.

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FOUR INTERNATIONAL FINDINGS, ONE OPEN NUMBER

No other Russian crime in this war has drawn an ICC warrant, a crimes-against-humanity finding, a Grand Chamber judgment and an OSCE expert report. What remains unsettled is the total; the hub shows each figure for what it measures.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

OCT 2026

ESTABLISHED BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

ICC, 17 Mar 2023: warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova — unlawful deportation and transfer of children from occupied Ukraine to Russia, arts. 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii). A

Commission of Inquiry: transfers examined 'amount to a war crime' (Mar 2023); 1,205 children verified; crimes against humanity of deportation, forcible transfer and enforced disappearance (A/HRC/61/61, Mar 2026). A

ECtHR Grand Chamber, 9 Jul 2025: an administrative practice of transferring and adopting Ukrainian children in breach of Articles 3, 5 and 8; Article 46 order to cooperate in a reunification mechanism. A

OSCE Moscow Mechanism, May 2023: family separations at filtration points are grave breaches; the practice may amount to the crime against humanity of deportation. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

Ombudsman's Office, 7 Oct 2026: 20,651 cases of deportation or forcible transfer recorded; 2,665 children returned; 2,363 missing; whereabouts of 59,676 children established (categories of the 'Children of War' portal). B

Bring Kids Back UA (Maksym Maksymov), 21 Sep 2026: 2,616 returned in total; 725 in 2025, 673 in 2026 to date; the monthly rate 'depends on how the Russian side behaves'. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Yale HRL, 14 Feb 2023: 6,000+ children, 43 facilities, most with systematic re-education; 3 Dec 2024: 314 children in coerced adoption and fostering. C

Novaya Gazeta Europe, 31 Jul 2023: Lvova-Belova's report — 700,000+ children 'arrived', 1,500 orphans, 380 fostered. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED		
Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
19,546 → 20,651	recorded cases on the Children of War portal, 2025 → 7 Oct 2026; a case count, not a verified headcount	Ombudsman / portal · B
1,205 · 164 · 31	children whose transfer the COI has verified (Mar 2026); examined in detail (Mar 2023); one May 2022 group (Oct 2023)	Commission of Inquiry · A
6,000+ · 43 · 314	children in camps and facilities; facilities identified (Feb 2023); children in coerced adoption/fostering (Dec 2024)	Yale HRL · C
700,000+ · 1,500 · 380	Russia's own figures: children 'arrived' in Russia; orphans taken from Donetsk and Luhansk; placed with Russian foster families	Lvova-Belova's office, Jul 2023 · RU
2,616 · 2,665	children returned — Bring Kids Back UA (21 Sep 2026); Ombudsman (7 Oct 2026); the hub shows both	B / B

PHOTO SLOT · DRAFT

Document shot: the ICC press release of 17 Mar 2023 or the ICC building in The Hague (Commons, CC BY-SA), or the cover of the Commission of Inquiry's 2026 conference room paper on children — no victim images

Photo slot · documents and institutions

The hub leads with the ICC and COI findings (Tier A) and shows Ukraine's case count as 'recorded by Ukrainian authorities' (Tier B). Russia's 700,000 counts all children who entered Russia from Ukraine, most with relatives, and is not a deportation figure — but the 1,500 orphans and 380 placements inside it are admissions.

Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHPG; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



FROM THE KREMLIN TO THE CAMP DIRECTOR

The chain runs from a presidential decree to the regional commissioners who signed placements and the camp directors who kept children past the date their parents were promised. Two names carry ICC warrants; others carry US designations of 24 Aug 2023.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Vladimir Putin President of the Russian Federation	Decrees of 30 May 2022 and 4 Jan 2024 on citizenship for Ukrainian orphans; policy 'conceived and executed at the highest level' (COI)	ICC arrest warrant, 17 Mar 2023 — arts. 8(2)(a)(vii), 8(2)(b)(viii); art. 25(3)(a) and 28(b)	EU, US, UK, Canada, Australia and others since 25 Feb 2022 — for the aggression, not for the children
Maria Lvova-Belova Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights	Directed the transfers, placements and 'patriotic education'; adopted a boy from Mariupol herself; published the 700,000 figure	ICC arrest warrant, 17 Mar 2023 — art. 25(3)(a)	UK 16 Jun 2022; EU 21 Jul 2022; US 15 Sep 2022
Konstantin Fedorenko director, Artek international children's centre, Crimea	Received Ukrainian children for 'patriotic' re-education and kept them from returning (US State Dept)	—	US 24 Aug 2023
Regional children's commissioners Belgorod, Kaluga, Rostov (names in the US designation)	Facilitated deportation and adoption by Russian families	No charge located	US 24 Aug 2023
Vladimir Kovalenko; Vladimir Nechaev Youth Army (Yunarmiya) Sevastopol; Sevastopol State University	Organised military-patriotic camps for Ukrainian children in Crimea	No charge located	US 24 Aug 2023
Akhmat Kadyrov Foundation; Aymani Kadyrova Chechnya	Re-education camps for Ukrainian children outside Grozny	No charge located	US 24 Aug 2023

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The legal frame: decree of 30 May 2022 (citizenship for orphans on application by a guardian or institution head) → decree of 4 Jan 2024 (applications by 'Russian organisations') — letting the institution that holds a deported child make the child Russian (KHPG).

The executive chain: the presidential commissioner's office coordinates (COI: 'at various levels'); regional commissioners sign placements; federal camps (Artek, Medvezhonok) and 'youth' organisations run re-education; placement databases tied to the federal government list the children for adoption (Yale HRL, Dec 2024).

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

17 Mar 2023: Peskov — ICC decisions 'null and void for the Russian Federation from the point of view of law'; Zakharova — 'meaningless'; Russia's Investigative Committee opens a criminal case against the ICC Prosecutor and judges (Mar 2023).

31 Jul 2023: the Commissioner's report; 2 Jun 2025: Medinsky's 'evacuated' line in Istanbul. Russia did not take part in the ECtHR proceedings; no reunification mechanism has been established.

Sanctions column: designations from the designating authorities' own releases (FCDO 16 Jun 2022, EU Council 21 Jul 2022, OFAC 15 Sep 2022, US State Department 24 Aug 2023).

Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHPG; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

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'EVACUATION' THAT NOBODY WAS TOLD ABOUT

Russia's line has three parts: the children were rescued from shelling; those with families are returned; the ICC is a political instrument with no authority. The first is contradicted by the Commission's finding that families were not told where their children were; the second by the 80% not returned; the third by 125 states parties to the Rome Statute.

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DMITRY PESKOV · KREMLIN SPOKESMAN · 17 MAR 2023

“Any decisions of this kind are null and void for the Russian Federation from the point of view of law.”

Press call; RFE/RL, 17 Mar 2023

MARIA LVOVA-BELOVA · PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS · TELEGRAM, 17 MAR 2023

“I'm glad the international community has appreciated our work to protect children. And it's especially nice to be on the same team as the Russian President Vladimir Putin.”

Her Telegram channel; PassBlue, 20 Mar 2023

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONER · REPORT · JULY 2023

“[Russia] accommodated about 4.8 million residents of Ukraine and the Donbas republics, of whom more than 700,000 were children... most arrived together with their parents or other relatives.”

Report on the Commissioner's website; Novaya Gazeta Europe, 31 Jul 2023

VLADIMIR MEDINSKY · HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION · ISTANBUL, 2 JUN 2025

“Children caught between two fires have been evacuated, but if there is a family – they are returned back.”

TASS; Mezha, 2 Jun 2025

BINDING ON 125 STATES PARTIES REGARDLESS

The warrants oblige every Rome Statute state party to arrest the suspects on its territory; the Court's jurisdiction rests on Ukraine's declarations and, since 1 Jan 2025, its membership. Russia's non-recognition does not touch third states' obligations.

What the claim concedes: Nothing on the facts; the statement does not deny that children were moved.

THE 'WORK' IS THE CHARGE

Her own office's report of July 2023 records 1,500 orphans taken from occupied Donetsk and Luhansk and 380 placed with Russian foster families; the Commission found that in most cases families were not told where their children were.

What the claim concedes: Personal responsibility for the programme, and the President's.

NOT A REBUTTAL — AN INVENTORY

The figure includes refugees who crossed with families and is not a deportation count. But the same report lists 1,500 orphans and 380 foster placements — children who had no parent to consent. Those are the transfers the ICC, the COI and the ECtHR have ruled on.

What the claim concedes: Scale, and that unaccompanied children from institutions were taken and placed with Russian families.

RETURN IS CONDITIONAL ON RUSSIA'S OWN TERMS

The Commission of Inquiry found that Russian authorities did not disclose the children's whereabouts and obstructed return; about 80% of the verified children have not come back. The OSCE: a genuine evacuation is provisional and ends when the danger does.

What the claim concedes: That children were removed, and that Russia decides whether a 'family' exists.

FAIR TO SAY

The headline figures measure different things. Ukraine's 20,651 is a count of recorded cases, including children transferred within occupied territory; the COI's 1,205 is what the UN has verified, not a ceiling; Russia's 700,000 counts every child who crossed into Russia from Ukraine, most with relatives. The hub does not add or compare them.

The OSCE experts found that some evacuations before 24 Feb 2022 appear consistent with IHL; the crime lies in not registering the children, not telling families, not returning them and making them Russian. No international body has found genocide; the ICC warrants are charges, not verdicts.

Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHPG; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



THE CLEAREST LEGAL RECORD OF THE WAR

Four bodies, four findings, one direction: war crime (ICC, COI 2023), crimes against humanity (COI 2026), Convention violations (ECtHR), grave breaches (OSCE). What is still contested is the word genocide and the number.

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WHAT WE ASK Execute the warrants. Every Rome Statute state party should state publicly, before any visit, that Putin and Lvova-Belova would be arrested on its territory; states that have hosted or will host them should be asked to explain their obligations under art. 86. Build the mechanism the Court ordered. Fund and staff the identification and reunification mechanism required by the ECtHR's judgment of 9 Jul 2025 — a register, DNA matching, consular channels through Qatar and the Holy See — and report on it to the Committee of Ministers every six months. Close the sanctions gap. Align EU, UK and Canadian listings with the US designations of 24 Aug 2023 (Artek, Fedorenko, regional commissioners, Yunarmiya officers, the Kadyrov Foundation) where not yet listed, and list the officials Yale HRL identified; designate 'for the deportation of children'. Make return a condition, not a goodwill gesture. Put the return of all identified children into any ceasefire or settlement framework as a verifiable obligation with a deadline, and keep the issue on the Security Council's agenda with the COI's crimes-against-humanity finding as the reference text.
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Sources: A — ICC press release, 17 Mar 2023; Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023), A/78/540 (Oct 2023), A/HRC/61/61 and Chair's statement (12 Mar 2026); ECtHR Grand Chamber, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* (9 Jul 2025); OSCE Moscow Mechanism (May 2023); FCDO (16 Jun 2022); EU Council (21 Jul 2022); OFAC (15 Sep 2022); US State Department (24 Aug 2023). B — Ombudsman's Office via Ukrinform (9 Oct 2026); Bring Kids Back UA via Interfax-Ukraine (25 Sep 2026); Ukrainska Pravda (30 May 2022; 2 Feb 2024). C — Yale HRL (14 Feb 2023; 3 Dec 2024); Novaya Gazeta Europe (31 Jul 2023); KHPG; PassBlue and RFE/RL (Mar 2023); Al Jazeera (16 Oct 2023). RU — TASS (Peskov, 17 Mar 2023; Medinsky, 2 Jun 2025); Lvova-Belova's Telegram (17 Mar 2023); Commissioner's report (Jul 2023). All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



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"Bring Ukrainian children back!" — demonstration in Berlin, 24 Aug 2025

Roy Zuo · 2025-08-24 · CC BY-SA 4.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:\(20250824\)_Ukrainian_Independence_Day_demonstration_in_Berlin_01.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(20250824)_Ukrainian_Independence_Day_demonstration_in_Berlin_01.jpg)

SENSITIVE — GRAPHIC AFTERMATH
BLURRED IN PRINT

Russia's own photograph: "about 1,500 children" from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions arrive in Yevpatoria, occupied Crimea, for "rest and recovery", 2022

Управление информационной политики Мининформ РК · 2022-10-08 · CC BY 4.0

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Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-children-deportation/media. This appendix is not an evidence repository: original material is held by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine (warcrimes.gov.ua) and the ICC Office of the Prosecutor.