

"Children" and "Genocide"

are words that should never have ended up next to each other



The film "ABSOLUTE EVIL"
is about the atrocities
of the Russian military



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

Russia is committing **GENOCIDE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATION**

Article II of the Convention defines five acts that meet the definition of "genocide".

Let us consider them in the context of war crimes committed by Russia against Ukraine:

- **killing** Ukrainians as members of the **national group**;
- causing serious **bodily or mental harm to Ukrainians**;
- deliberate creation of living conditions for a group designed for its physical extermination in whole or in part through **the elimination and destruction of civil and energy infrastructure**;
- taking measures aimed at preventing births within the group, in particular, **due to sexual violence**
- forced transfer of children from one group to another, namely **deportation and adoption of Ukrainian children**.

The definition of the crime of genocide is also contained in Article VI of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.



A 6-year-old child died as a result of Russian shelling of Mariupol



An 18-month-old boy died of injuries as a result of shelling in Mariupol

- **There is no statute of limitations for prosecuting war crimes and genocide. The peculiarity of these crimes is that specific persons who give orders to commit such criminal acts are responsible for their commission.**

Killing of Ukrainian children

The Russian Federation carries out terror against the civilian population. This is accompanied by regular rocket attacks on populated areas, and in particular on residential buildings, where civilians are killed, and **children also become the victims.**

Russia KILLED **482** Ukrainian children
(as of May 25)

The geography of killings is unlimited!



Regardless of the region in which a person resides in his native land: the rear or the front, this person **is a target for Russia** because of the affiliation with Ukraine.

Missile fire with high-precision weapons on people

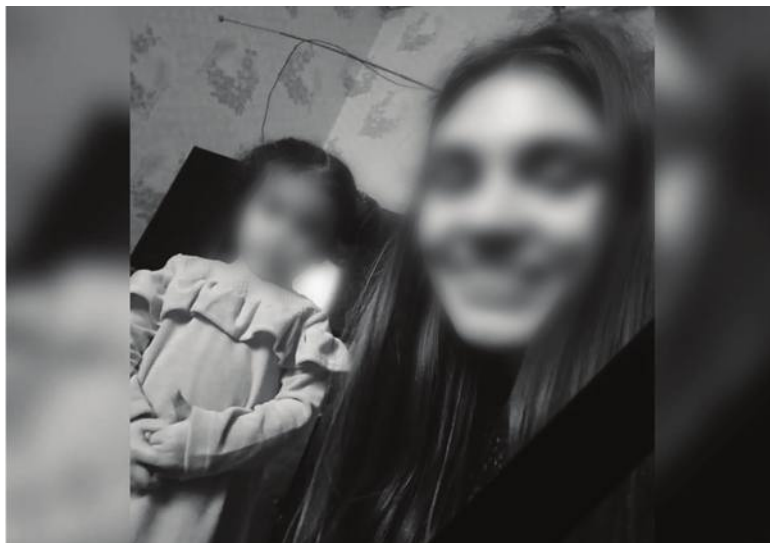
DNIPRO (January 2023). Apartment building. 6 children who died.



UMAN (April 2023). Apartment building. 6 children who died.



DNIPRO (April 2023). A single-family house. A mother and her two-year-old daughter were killed.



SLOVIANSK (April 2023). Apartment building. The father and a two-year-old boy, who could not be saved after being pulled out from under the ruins, died.



VINNYTSIA (July 2022). City center. Three children who died.



ZAPORIZHZHIA region (November 2022). Maternity hospital. A child who was only 2 days old died.



DNIPRO (September 2022). A single-family house. An entire family died: grandmother, mother, daughter Vasylyna and son Ivan. Only their pet – the dog Krym – survived.



KRAMATORSK (April 2022). The railway station. People were waiting for the evacuation train. Seven children died.



And, unfortunately, there are many such stories.

For some, these stories and photos are like horror movies, but for Ukrainian children they are reality.

The evacuation rescue column turned out to be the target

September 2022. A convoy of 7 cars was found shot dead in Kharkiv region. The Russian military attacked civilians who were trying to escape from the shelling. **Russia killed 25 innocent people at that time, including one pregnant woman and 13 children.**



Among the documented crimes of the military forces of the Russian Federation against children, not the only facts of the death and injury of children during evacuation attempts, in particular from Kyiv, Kharkiv oblasts, etc., were revealed. Russian soldiers opened fire on cars marked with the words **“children”** and moving with white flags during the evacuation.

Childhood crippled by war

Russia IS TRAUMATIZING Ukrainian children BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY!

984 children were **INJURED**
due to armed aggression in Ukraine
(as of May 25)



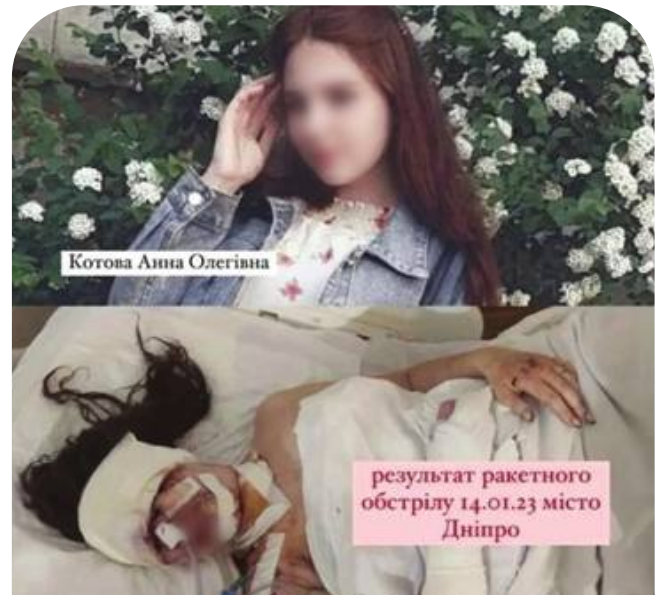
A Russian military officer shot an 11-year-old girl from Mariupol in the face. The child is alive and is in hospital. The bullet passed through the jaw and damaged the root of the tongue.



A girl from the Zaporizhia region was walking with her mother when the city was suddenly shelled. As a result of the shelling, the child received multiple injuries, her leg was amputated.



Toretsk. The city in the non-stop fire of the enemy. On May 23, 2023, 5 people were injured, including a 3-year-old child. Emergency workers provided pre-medical assistance to three injured persons (a child born in 2020, a man born in 1980 and a woman born in 1986) and transported them to the hospital.



Consequences of rocket fire on the city of Dnipro, January 14, 2023.

Children with limb amputations

Among the affected children, **29 cases of amputations** at various levels of the upper and lower limbs were recorded, which is 2,5% of the total number of affected children. **4 children with amputation died.**

17 children need prosthetics of the upper and lower limbs in order to provide them with the possibility of a normal life and development, namely:

- **5 children** with upper limb amputations;
- **11 children** with lower limb amputations;
- **1 child with upper and lower limb amputation.**

Children with amputated limbs by age:

from 1 to 3 years	2
from 4 to 6 years	5
from 7 to 14 years	12
from 15 to 18 years	8



Children are the most sensitive victims of an aggressive war

Even if the children survived physically, most of them are psychologically traumatized.

There are almost no children in Ukraine who were spared by the war. Someone was forced to run away from home, someone was separated from their parents, someone lost the opportunity to receive necessary treatment or rehabilitation. Even the need to periodically hide in bomb shelters during air raids and passively watch war events on the news can strongly affect a child's psyche.

Many children saw with their own eyes the horrors of war and such things that even an adult psyche cannot withstand.



! The number of all persons with psychological trauma from the war is unknown, one can only imagine the scale of the consequences of this tragedy.

According to Articles 24 and 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, minors have the right to education and the highest attainable level of physical and mental health. In the event of an armed conflict, states are obliged to make their best efforts to ensure the aforementioned rights.

Russia creates conditions in which you need to SURVIVE

Missile attacks on civil infrastructure

Russian Federation troops destroyed or damaged (as of May 25, 2023):

- more than **153.9 thousand houses**;
- **3,259 educational institutions** (260 of them cannot be restored);
- **1,216 healthcare facilities** (200 of them cannot be restored);
- **154 social sphere institutions.**



! Threat to life and health, lost homes, impossibility to receive education and medical care prompted families, especially with children, to evacuate to other regions and abroad.

In Search of Safety: A Home for Internally Displaced Persons

According to the UN, 13.3 million people were forced to flee in search of safety due to Russia's war against Ukraine.

As of May, 2023, the number of internally displaced children is 1,054,819.



! NOT ALWAYS the conditions in places of compact living are good and appropriate for children.

For families with children who have found refuge abroad, there is another additional CHALLENGE – Studying on other language and under two programs: the educational program of the country in which they live and in a Ukrainian school (remotely), which creates an additional burden on children.



Sexual violence against children is yet another atrocity of the Russian military

According to operational data of the Prosecutor General's Office as of 20/05/2023: recorded **190 cases of conflict-related sexual violence**.

- men **54**
- women **136**
- minors **13** (9 – under 18, 4 – minor children), a part of them were 12 girls and 1 boy)

In 13 cases, there was evidence of sexual violence against children: in Donetsk (1 child), Kyiv (4 children), Kherson (4 children), Nikolaev (2 children) and Chernihiv (2 children). The average age of victims is 4 years old - until 17 years old.

According to the discovered facts of sexual violence in the previously occupied territories of the of Kyiv and Chernihiv region's villages:

- **16 servicemen of the Russian Federation were notified of the suspicion;**
- **indictments against 5 persons were referred to the court;**
- **one person was sentenced to 12 years** (deprivation of liberty).

The exclusive cynicism of the occupiers is forcing children to be witnesses during sexual violence against their loved ones and vice versa.

The story of one family became known from the report of the public organization "Kharkiv Institute of Sociological Research". In the Kyiv region, at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, two Russian servicemen broke into a private home, raped a 22-year-old woman several times, sexually assaulted her husband, and forced the couple to have sex in their presence. Then one of the servicemen forced their four-year-old daughter to perform oral sex with him in front of the child's parents.

! There is no age restrictions for war criminals:
According to the Office of the Prosecutor General the age of the victims of sexual violence is from 4 to 85 years old.

UNBLOOMED: deportation of Ukrainian children

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights issued a Special Report for the **International Children's Day Violation of the Rights of Ukrainian Children in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine and in Russia: Deportation, Militarization, Indoctrination.**



The special report covers the period from February 2022 to April 2023 (inclusive). The intensity and scale of the violations, the number of victims and affected persons, the lack of access to the territories of detention of minors, the intentional distortion of information by Russia for propaganda purposes, and hostilities had a limiting effect during the writing of the Special Report. This report focuses mainly on describing those rights of the child that have been unlawfully interfered with or that have been violated in connection with the full-scale intrusion

The Russian side purposefully deports Ukrainian children to its territory, without taking measures to find their relatives and without informing the Ukrainian side about such relocation, and places such children in Russian families under various conditions. These actions are aimed at making it impossible for the children to return to Ukraine and to completely sever their connection with the Ukrainian national group. Such actions of the Russian side may contain signs of the crime of genocide.

Russian Federation
deported

19 486 children

398 went missing
due to the war
children

In addition, the state is making efforts to establish the location of the children who were in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine at risk of forced transfer or deportation, and whose fate is unknown.



Russians move and deport children according to the following categories:

- children whose parents were killed during the Russian armed invasion;
- children removed from the family;
- children who are separated from their parents during "filtering";
- children from institutions;
- for the so-called "remediation" due to the creation of conditions unfit for life.



Омбудсман України
ombudsman of Ukraine

Children are the youngest victims of the great genocidal war

It is known that children are placed both in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and in the territory of the Russian Federation. According to the mass media of the Russian Federation, children are taken to **Vladimir, Omsk, Rostov, Chelyabinsk, Saratov, Moscow, Leningrad regions, Krasnodar region and Sakhalin Island.**

The forcible transfer of children from one human group to another has been enshrined as one of the material elements of the crime of genocide since 28 March 1947. In the commentary to Article 3 (a) of the draft Convention on the Prohibition of Genocide, prepared by the Economic and Social Council, it is emphasized that “the separation of children from their parents leads to the imposition of a culture and mentality different from the parents’ mentality on the children, who are at a vulnerable and receptive age. Such a process, as a rule, leads to the disappearance of the group as a cultural unit in a relatively short time.

Among the arguments in favor of recognizing the forcible transfer of children to another human group as genocide, there are primarily two:

- 1) destructive consequences of such practice for the existence of the group, and
- 2) children belong to vulnerable groups of victims who can be imposed the identity of the criminal.

With its actions aimed at the illegal deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to the Russian national group, the aggressor state, among other things, seeks to implement the policy of demographic engineering.

"Re-education" of Ukrainian children

Representatives of the authorities of the Russian Federation are engaged in the re-education of Ukrainian children.

They talk about the deported children from Mariupol, who **talk about love for Ukraine, sing the National Anthem and speak badly about Putin.** When informed about this, they react angrily and declare **"Nothing! We will reeducate them."**

On March 17, 2023, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the II ICC issued warrants of arrest for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova in connection with war crimes in the form of illegal deportation of the population (children) and illegal transfer of the population (children) from the occupied territories of Ukraine to Russia (according to with Articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute).



Militarization of education and Russian propaganda

A separate aspect of the destruction of Ukrainian identity and violation of children's rights is the **militarization of education**. Propaganda for military service aimed at residents of occupied territories is prohibited by Article 51(1) of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Since 2014, the Russian Federation has been actively promoting service in the ranks of its own armed forces, focusing its efforts on propaganda among children – these measures are carried out under the guidance and financing of the occupation authorities, in particular, the “Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea” and Russian ministries, in particular, the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation.

Invaders are establishing regional branches of the "Junior Army" in the temporarily occupied territories, thus turning Ukrainian children against Ukraine. Children are taught to disassemble weapons, shoot, wear camouflage uniforms and, most importantly, not to love the Motherland, and prepare to join volunteer battalions.

With such actions, Russia "inculcates" in minors hatred for their native country and a desire to take revenge for the war, but not against the Russians, but against Ukraine. There were such military-patriotic movements even after the occupation of Crimea, now everything is being repeated in the newly occupied territories.

In schools, Ukrainian books are burned and the Russian curriculum is taught. Children are told that they are not Ukrainians, but Russians and that Ukraine does not exist as a state.



«Junior Army»

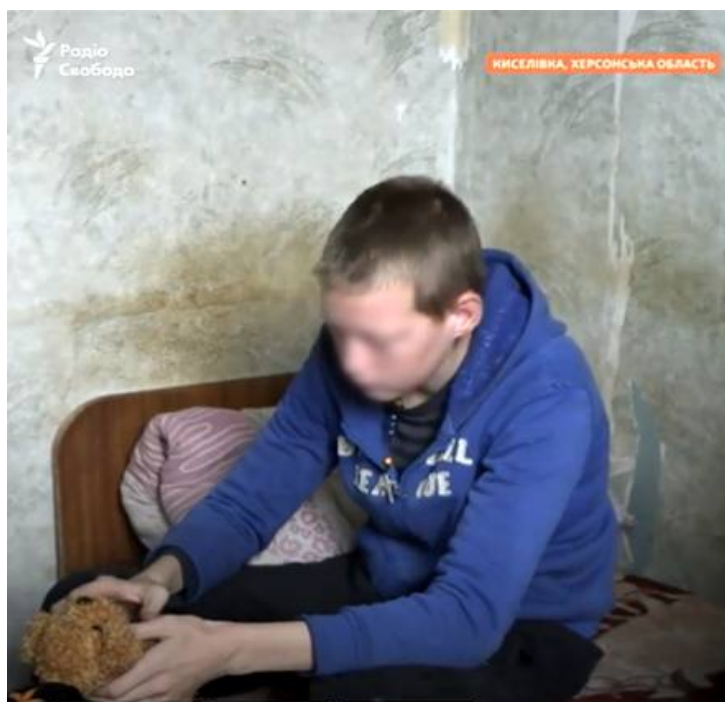


A lesson of courage on temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region

! Russia first leaves Ukrainian children without their families, and then plays "SAVIOR"

The existence of a children's torture chamber in the Kherson Region has been confirmed

14-year-old Vitaly spent 10 days in a Russian torture chamber in the Kherson region. "The eyes were blindfolded, the bag was thrown over, the hands were tied with ropes. They brought us to the basement. The first time they gave us food on the 4th day," the boy recalled.



Ukraine is working to return deported children

As of May 25, 2023,
Ukraine returned **369** children

Happy returning stories

At the beginning of the year, the Ombudsman's Office received an appeal from the grandmother of a student of the Municipal Institution of the Kherson Regional Council "Oleshkiv Children's Boarding School" with a request to assist her in the return of her grandson, who was deported to the territory of the Russian Federation together with other pupils of the institution.

The grandmother's attempt to go to the temporarily occupied territory to search for and return her grandson by her own efforts turned out to be useless. The administration of the facility where Artem was staying refused to return the child to his grandmother. At the same time, it became known that the occupation authorities do not give her the opportunity to return home from the city of Skadovsk to the city of Kherson and encourage her to get the passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation.

With the assistance of the Ombudsman's Office, the guardianship authority in February appointed the grandmother as the guardian of the grandson and took other measures to assist the applicant in returning the child to the territory controlled by Ukraine.

State bodies and charitable organizations also took part in the return of the child to the controlled by Ukraine territory.



During the mass shelling of the Kharkiv region by the Russian Federation, the child and her aunt were taken to the city of Belgorod. 14-year-old Veronika was deprived of the opportunity to return to Ukraine with her grandmother, who, at the request of her mother, went to Russia with the relevant documents to return the child to the territory of Ukraine. However, due to the refusal of the Russian side, the child did not return to her mother, but she was placed in the Yelets social rehabilitation center for minors in the Lipetsk region of the Russian Federation. The child's mother found out that her daughter was a witness and later became a victim in a criminal case, the court session of which was scheduled for May 10.



Now the child is already at home. With horror and tears in her eyes, her grandmother recalls what she had to go through in order to return her granddaughter to her native land.

On 16 May 2023 – with the help of The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Veronika returned to Ukraine.

A 6-year-old girl returned to her parents, who had been in Russian captivity for a long time. The girl's mother and father are soldiers who were captured in their native city of Mariupol, protecting it from Russian soldiers who came to destroy and kill. After release from captivity, the girl's mother appealed to the Commissioner's Office with a request to assist in the return of her daughter. Thanks to the cooperation of the Commissioners of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the employees of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Ombudsman managed to return the little Ukrainian girl home. Now the whole family is in Ukraine and happy that they managed to reunite.



International actions to protect Ukrainian children



On 28 April 2023, an informal UN Security Council Arria-Formula meeting was held at the UN headquarters on the topic: **Responding to the Abduction and Deportation of Children During Armed Conflicts: Specific Measures for Accountability and Prevention**. The meeting was initiated by the members of the UN Security Council Albania, France and the USA, as well as the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN with the support of such countries as: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Guatemala, Greece, Georgia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Finland, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan and delegations of the European Union.

The purpose of the event was to draw special attention of the international community to the problem of **abduction and deportation of children in the context of armed conflicts, and Russia's war against Ukraine**, in particular.

The briefers of the event were the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets, Councilor - the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on Children's Rights and Child Rehabilitation Dariia Herasymchuk, citizens of Ukraine - victims of crimes of the Russian Federation, as well as Dr. Ezequiel Heffes, Director of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, non-government coalition of human rights organizations.

On May 4, 2023, The OSCE Moscow Mechanism issued a report: "On Violations and Abuses of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Associated with the Forcible Transfer and/or Deportation of Ukrainian Children to the Russian Federation"

"The deportation of Ukrainian children, carried out by the Russian authorities, may contain elements of a crime against humanity. There have been numerous and repeated violations of children's rights: to identity, to family, to education, to access to information, to rest, to leisure and participation in cultural life and art, as well as the rights to opinion, conscience and religion, to health I, for freedom and security," noted in the OSCE.

Report on Violations and Abuses of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, related to the Forcible Transfer and/or Deportation of Ukrainian Children to the Russian Federation





"Hotline" for appeals:



0800-50-17-20
(free of charge)

044-299-74-08



hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

The Russian Federation and all the war criminals it sent to Ukraine will bear the most serious responsibility for the evil they committed.

Ukraine meticulously documents every crime and every brutality.
All those who are guilty will undoubtedly be held accountable.

We will never forget or forgive. And so is the world.

#StandWithUkraine



Dmytro LUBINETS

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(from July 1, 2022)

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Children are the youngest victims of the great genocidal war



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