



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

The task is to **bring** all Ukrainians **back home!**



UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA

Just and lasting peace
for Ukraine and the world

The Ukrainian peace formula is the restoration of justice!

The peace formula of the President of Ukraine is a global initiative **aimed at restoring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, achieving a sustainable and just peace in Europe and preventing the crime of aggression in the future** by coordinating the efforts of the international community.

The Peace Formula includes ten points. The fourth of them is devoted to the release and return home of all captured and deported Ukrainians. The Ombudsman of Ukraine is responsible for the implementation of this clause.

The task is to bring all Ukrainians back home!

Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine is a large-scale violation of the norms of international humanitarian law and human rights. Among such violations are the deportation of the civilian population, in particular children, to the Russian Federation, illegal detention and imprisonment of civilians in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, violations of the norms of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

And precisely **the reduction of suffering and restoration of the rights of imprisoned and deported persons is an unconditional priority of international law and should be the focus of attention of international organizations and Ukrainian state bodies.**

Let's show the power of unity – let's return to Ukraine everyone who is being held by Russia!

In order to return all Ukrainians home, the support and unification of the international community is necessary. It is only to achieve a result with joint actions and pressure on the Russian Federation! That is why, **at the initiative of Ukraine, international high-level meetings** regarding the implementation of the Ukrainian peace formula **are being held.** The head of the Office of the President, Andriy Yermak, is coordinating this work on behalf of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.



One of the first meetings took place in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**. At that time, the Ombudsman of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, worked as part of the Ukrainian delegation. The key issue was a stable and just peace for Ukraine. Representatives of more than **40 countries**, including the EU, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain, UAE, South Africa and others, came to Jeddah.

In August of this year, **the Office of the Ombudsman organized a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions from 28 countries and international organizations:** the Vatican, Denmark, Canada, Belgium, Finland, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, the USA and others regarding Point Four of the Peace Formula.



Then the work **continued in Malta** – a summit on the Peace Formula was held there. **During the meeting, specific plans for the implementation of five points of the Initiative were presented and discussed.**

These are the joint efforts of different countries from different continents. Regarding Point Four: **Canada has proposed the creation of a large international coalition for child return.** This initiative was supported by the majority of participating countries.



The international coalition of countries for the return of Ukrainian children – the first meeting and the first developments

Thus, on December 8, 2023, **the first meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children took place. 72 representatives of states and international organizations joined the high-level meeting**, in particular, Canada, Qatar, Great Britain, the USA, Norway, the Netherlands, Estonia, as well as representatives of the UN Monitoring Mission on Human Rights, UNICEF, OSCE, the Council of Europe...

The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, opened the event. He emphasized the importance of joint work on the return of deported Ukrainian children. To this end, the approved **Bring Kids Back UA action plan** is in effect. During the first panel, the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak explained how the coalition of countries should work.

«If we returned at least one deported child every day, it would take Ukraine more than 55 years to do so! Only about 20,000 verified cases have been verified... However, we cannot wait that long! We need effective steps!» – emphasized **the Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets.**

Ukraine is ready to work for peace and calls upon the leaders of countries and international organizations to condemn the crimes of the Russian Federation and comprehensively contribute to the observance of the rights of Ukrainian citizens, which Russia violates on a daily basis!





Protecting the rights of
CHILDREN
is protecting the future!

One of the sub-points of Point Four of the Peace Formula is the return of all Ukrainian children forcibly displaced and deported by Russia.

Currently, **19,546 children** have been deported and/or forcibly relocated by Russia. Russia itself reports in its sources that it has deported **more than 700,000 Ukrainian children**. This figure seems terrible, since every child's life is unprotected, and being on the territory of the Russian Federation, Ukrainian children are subjected to re-education, they are put under psychological pressure!

Ukraine must return all deported and forcibly displaced children! Currently, **517 children are already home**. A large team is involved in the return of children: the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Office of the Ombudsman, other state bodies, international and public organizations. This is happening **within the framework of the implementation of the Bring Kids Back UA Action Plan of the President of Ukraine**.

Partners also help return children to Ukraine. Cooperation with **the State of Qatar and UNICEF** has been established. The Ombudsman's Office is grateful to partners for their assistance!



The process of returning Ukrainian children is largely influenced by international pressure and the prosecution of the guilty!

What are the main goals of Ukraine in returning forcibly displaced and deported children?

In order to return children, it is necessary first to **develop a mechanism for obtaining lists of children who remain in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, as well as to identify countries that can provide assistance in this regard**. In addition, it is important to **verify and update the available data on children deported to the territory of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus and their place of detention**.

It is important to fulfill the following tasks:

- **Identifying new circumstances regarding the forced transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children, documenting the facts of crimes in cooperation with international partners.** In particular, the fact that Russia changed the legislation: it introduced forced passporting and militarization of Ukrainian children, educational, cultural and migration policies.
- **Identifying, with the help of OSINT measures, the relocation and whereabouts of children who were deported from the territory of Ukraine or forcibly transferred to the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.**
- **Opening of humanitarian corridors.**

Another necessary steps include:

- **Help in ensuring the child's best interests after returning to Ukraine – psychological rehabilitation;**
- **Establishment of a special center in cooperation with international partners for the purpose of rehabilitation of children returned to Ukraine and all children affected by the war.**

Ukraine is waiting for proposals regarding the practical actions of individual countries regarding the return to Ukraine of individual children or groups of children, their reunification with their families!



- **The returnees are aged between 8 and 18 years old**
 Their path of return was traditionally developed by the Ombudsman’s Office team together with other state authorities as part of the implementation of the approved action plan of the President of Ukraine Bring Kids Back UA.

Each return is like a small special operation



- **6-year-old Renat and 10-year-old Varvara**
 The children and their mother, Olga, were separated at the start of the full-scale invasion. The children’s mother is a prisoner of war, she was returned as part of a larger exchange. Olga lost her husband in this war, and her children were initially sent to a boarding school, but later her great-grandmother managed to take them to her home. After that, the Office of the Ombudsman, together with other state bodies, engaged in the return of young Ukrainians home.



- **5-year-old Marharyta and 12-year-old Yevheniia**
 The sisters have been separated from their parents since the first day of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. All the time they were with their grandmother in temporarily occupied territory, who refused to hand over the children to their mother, who had returned from captivity. After the girls’ mother appealed, the Ombudsman’s Office worked out a mechanism with the Russian side for their return. The family was reunited.



■ **14-year-old Veronika**

The girl was deported to the city of Belgorod in Russia. The Office of the Ombudsman managed to bring the child home thanks to the opportunity to speak at the UN Security Council Arria-formula meeting.



■ **6-year-old Anna-Maria**

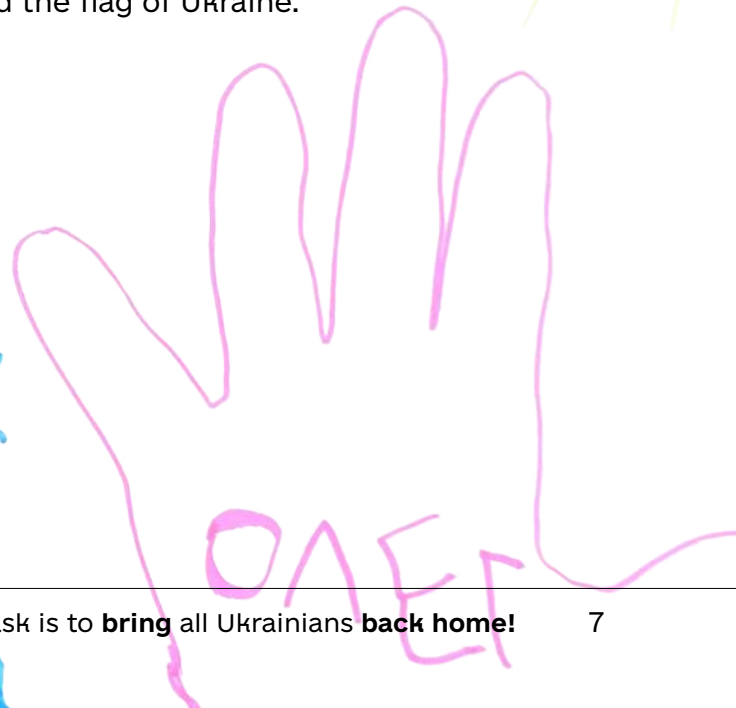
Ukraine returned home a girl Anna-Maria. The girl's parents were in captivity and were released as part of a prisoner of war exchange. Anna-Maria was forcibly taken to Russia by the occupiers. The child was returned home on May 10, 2023.

**The world needs more family reunification stories like this!
The world needs more respected children's rights and happy smiles of children!**



■ **6-year-old Oleh**

The boy ended up in an orphanage on the territory of the Russian Federation. However, Oleh managed to return home – to his grandmother. This is the first return of a child that took place with the assistance of the State of Qatar. While in Ukraine, the boy visited the Office of the Ombudsman. Oleh left a drawing in which he depicted his palm and the flag of Ukraine.



Civilians in the Russian Federation are illegally convicted and victims of enforced disappearances!

One of the sub-points of Point Four of the Peace Formula is the return of all civilians abducted by Russia from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine – victims of enforced disappearances.

Russia disregards all norms of international humanitarian law and has been abducting and illegally convicting Ukrainian civilians since 2014!

On the territory of the Russian Federation or on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, **about 28 thousand people** are considered missing under special circumstances and illegally deprived of personal freedom as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

International organizations have documented numerous cases of «filtering measures», enforced disappearances, use of torture, forced mobilization carried out by the occupying forces against Ukrainian civilians.

Civilians illegally detained by the Russian Federation are in inadequate conditions and do not receive medical care. They cannot receive packages from their relatives, nor can they keep in touch with them. One way or another, **civilians are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence!** However, **the most important problem is that there is no information about most of the citizens kidnapped by Russia in Ukraine!**

The Office of the Ombudsman calls on the international community to pay attention to this glaring problem! The rights of civilians are violated on a large scale – Ukraine needs the unconditional release of our citizens who are illegally detained by the Russian Federation!

What are Ukraine's main goals in the return of civilians?

- 1) Assistance in **ensuring access of ICRC to civilians** illegally detained by the Russian Federation and who are in the territory of the Russian Federation and the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.
- 2) **Identification and monitoring of places of detention** where civilians and political prisoners are illegally held.

What can representatives of other countries do?

- 1) Involve embassies and representative offices of states in the Russian Federation in collecting information about civilians, their whereabouts and state of health;
- 2) Apply the sanctions mechanism to those involved in the illegal abduction of the civilian population;
- 3) Strive to gain access, with the help of the current embassies on the territory of Belarus and Russia, to the places of detention of civilians, participate in the monitoring of places of detention, the movement of civilians and facilitate negotiations regarding their release;
- 4) Be mediators for the release of civilians and remain effective in the process of negotiations with Russia;
- 5) Offer services of patron countries – third states for the safe release of Ukrainian citizens from Russian places of detention.

The occupiers' torture chamber in liberated Kherson. Local people who refused to cooperate were kept here in inhumane conditions.

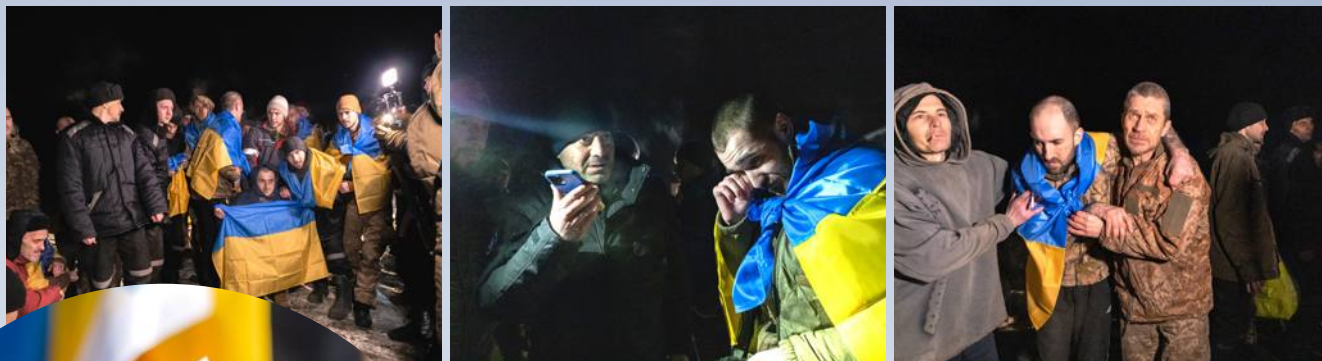


Ukraine needs to return the PRISONERS OF WAR!

One of the sub-points of Point Four of the Peace Formula is the return of all Ukrainian prisoners of war.

So far, 2,828 Ukrainians have been repatriated to Ukraine! A total of 49 exchanges have taken place since the start of the full-scale invasion.

The last and largest exchange took place on January 3, when 230 of our citizens returned to Ukrainian land.



It is worth noting that the prisoners of war exchanges usually take place after the end of the armed conflict. Despite everything, **Ukraine is interested in returning its citizens even in war conditions!** After all, in Russian captivity they are held in inadequate conditions, the occupiers subject them to torture, **violating the points of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war!**

Article 12 of the Geneva Convention states: «Prisoners of war are in the hands of the enemy Power, but not of the individuals or military units who have captured them. Irrespective of the individual responsibilities that may exist, the Detaining Power is responsible for the treatment given them».



! The seriously wounded or seriously ill are subject to unconditional repatriation even during hostilities. But, unlike Ukraine, Russia does not follow this norm. As an example, we once handed over seriously wounded Russian soldiers to the Russian Federation without any obligations. The enemy agreed to take them. The next time we tried to do the same, the aggressor refused! This is how much the occupiers value the lives of their people and how they need their personnel...

Therefore, we took another step – Ukraine, together with the ICRC, established a mixed medical commission in Ukraine, which has two tasks:

- Firstly – **to verify all seriously ill and seriously wounded Russian prisoners of war for further repatriation or hospitalization in a neutral country;**
- Secondly – **to encourage the establishment of a similar mixed medical commission by the aggressor state to determine the health condition of Ukrainian prisoners of war, their number, and to make an independent decision on the repatriation and hospitalization of seriously wounded and seriously ill prisoners of war in a neutral state.**



However, in the absence of confirmation from the Russian side, they do not function currently.

And returning to the Peace Formula, the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously ill prisoners of war is one of the ultimate goals we are trying to achieve.

Russia is killing and causing irreparable damage to the health of Ukrainian prisoners of war... The striking example is the terrorist attack in Olenivka. In the Ukraine Peace Formula, we also highlight the need for the deployment of a new UN mission to investigate the facts of the explosion in the Pre-trial Detention Center in Olenivka.



Ukraine is working to get results and protect human rights, including the rights of the prisoners of war!

What are the main goals of Ukraine in returning prisoners of war?

- 1) International pressure on Russia in order to grant the UN and the ICRC access to Ukrainian prisoners of war and stop the criminal prosecution of prisoners of war;
- 2) Repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously ill prisoners of war is required;
- 3) Work on the deployment of a new UN mission to investigate the facts of the explosion in the Pre-trial Detention Center in Olenivka;
- 4) It is necessary to look for practical steps to force Russia to follow the Geneva Conventions.

What are the main goals of the Peace Formula?

- 1) The release of Ukrainian prisoners by Russia according to the «all for all» formula.
- 2) Ensuring the rights of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians held by Russia.
- 3) The return home of Ukrainian civilians forcibly deported to Russia, primarily children.
- 4) The release of all Ukrainian political prisoners held in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.
- 5) Bringing to justice all those responsible for violating the rights and basic freedoms of Ukrainians held in captivity.



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**The Ukrainian Peace Formula is the restoration of justice,
ensuring the observance of human rights and fundamental
values of the democratic world!**

We understand that we face many challenges, but we are sure
that with your help we will be able to find new approaches to
protecting the rights of our citizens and returning home **ALL**
our prisoners of war, civilians and our Ukrainian children!

