**European Parliament**
2024-2029

**TEXTS ADOPTED**

# P10_TA(2026)0380

## Ukrainian children forcibly deported to Russia or living in Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine

### European Parliament resolution of 12 November 2026 on Ukrainian children forcibly deported or living in Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine (2026/2947(RSP))

*The European Parliament*,

– having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine and Russia, in particular those of 15 September 2022[1] and 8 May 2025[2],

– having regard to the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols thereto, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,

– having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/9 of 3 December 2025 on the return of Ukrainian children,

– having regard to the report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine of 12 March 2026,

– having regard to the report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism of 9 July 2026 on the militarisation and indoctrination of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation,

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1 European Parliament resolution of 15 September 2022 on human rights violations in the context of the forced deportation of Ukrainian civilians to and the forced adoption of Ukrainian children in Russia (OJ C 125, 5.4.2023, p. 67).

2 European Parliament resolution of 8 May 2025 on the return of Ukrainian children forcibly transferred and deported by Russia (OJ C, C/2026/581, 24.2.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/581/oj).

– having regard to Rules 136(2) and (4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Russia’s unprovoked, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, launched in 2014 and escalated with Russia’s full-scale invasion launched on 24 February 2022, has resulted in grave and systematic violations of children’s fundamental rights, including unlawful deportation, forcible transfer, family separation, illegal adoption, indoctrination, forced Russification and militarisation; whereas the first documented cases of Ukrainian children being unlawfully taken to Russia date back to 2014;

B. whereas, according to Ukrainian authorities, as of September 2026, 20 651 cases of deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children had been verified; whereas the actual number remains unknown and could be much higher, given Russia’s refusal to disclose comprehensive information; whereas, according to Ukraine’s Children of War portal, as of 28 October 2026, 2 752 Ukrainian children deported, forcibly transported or rescued from Russian-occupied territories had been returned; whereas returned children display acute psychological trauma, severe anxiety and, in some cases, signs of physical and sexual abuse, and need long-term trauma-informed psychological, medical and social support;

C. whereas approximately 1,6 million Ukrainian children are estimated to remain under Russian occupation, including in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and parts of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, including around 600 000 school-aged children; whereas children across these territories are subjected to systematic Russification, indoctrination, militarisation and suppression of Ukrainian-language education, history and consciousness, punishment for participating in Ukrainian online education, and the glorification of Russia’s war of aggression;

D. whereas according to Ukrainian authorities, since the start of Russia’s full-scale war of aggression approximately 770 Ukrainian children have been killed and 3 000 have been wounded;

E. whereas Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits individual or mass forcible transfers and deportations of protected persons from occupied territory, whatever the motive, to the occupying power or any other country, and unlawful deportation or transfer is a war crime under the Rome Statute;

F. whereas the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine concluded in March 2026 that the Russian regime has committed the crimes against humanity of deportation, forcible transfer and enforced disappearance of Ukrainian children; whereas the same commission of inquiry found that the deportations and transfers were facilitated by coordinated legislative, administrative and practical measures implemented at the highest levels of the

Russian State, involving federal and regional authorities and occupation administrations, which have systematically failed to disclose the whereabouts of children to their parents or legal guardians and have placed children in long-term arrangements with families and institutions across at least 21 regions of the Russian Federation and in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories; whereas this commission of inquiry has repeatedly noted that the Russian regime's systematic failure to establish a facilitation system for returning children constitutes a separate war crime of unjustifiable delay in the repatriation of civilians;

G. whereas the OSCE Moscow Mechanism report of 9 July 2026 concluded that Russia has established a systematic and deliberately designed policy of indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children, particularly in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, through its imposition of an education system, citizenship regulations, family law and youth policies; whereas Ukrainian children are subjected to military-patriotic education, weapons and drone training – through participation in such activities as the 2025 Zarnitsa 2.0 military patriotic competition or the Russian regime's 'Time of Young Heroes' programme – and preparation for eventual service in the Russian armed forces; whereas Russian children's camps, sports centres and regional tourism committees serve as operational hubs for forced assimilation, cultural reorientation and militarised education;

H. whereas a study published in 2025 by Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab identified at least 210 facilities in Russia and Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories to which Ukrainian children have been transferred since February 2022, including 130 facilities where re-education activities were documented and 39 where militarisation was documented; whereas a separate Yale University study, published in 2023, identified at least 2 442 Ukrainian children transferred to 13 facilities in Belarus, where they were subjected to political re-education and, in documented cases, military training; whereas the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is reported to be complicit in such actions, having hosted Ukrainian children from Russian-occupied territories at the Songdowon International Children's Camp for ideological indoctrination;

I. whereas a March 2026 investigation by Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab concluded with a high degree of certainty that Russian state-owned energy companies Gazprom and Rosneft, including their subsidiaries and trade unions, financed or facilitated the transportation and re-education of approximately 2 158 Ukrainian children from Russian-occupied territories between 2022 and 2025; whereas the involvement of Russian state-owned companies demonstrates the need to investigate corporate and financial networks supporting these practices;

J. whereas the Russian regime has facilitated the unlawful adoption and naturalisation of Ukrainian children, including through alterations to their names, dates of birth and places of birth, and has also imposed strict adoption secrecy, which erases the legal identity of abducted children, and accelerated and simplified procedures of acquisition of Russian citizenship and personal records; whereas such practices obstruct identification and family reunification and violate the right of children to preserve their identity; whereas this deliberate policy of active Russification by the Russian regime demonstrates that one of the primary goals of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is the erasure of Ukraine's distinct national identity;

K. whereas on 17 March 2023 the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova for their responsibility for the war crime of the unlawful deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children since at least 24 February 2022; whereas, in its resolution of 8 May 2025 on the return of Ukrainian children forcibly transferred and deported by Russia, the European Parliament strongly condemned Russia's actions and Belarus's complicity, stressing that these acts form part of a genocidal strategy to erase Ukrainian identity;

L. whereas the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, a 52 member-strong initiative co-chaired by Ukraine and Canada, coordinates international efforts to secure the return of Ukrainian children; whereas at the latest meeting of the Coalition on 11 May 2026, the participating countries reaffirmed a shared commitment to stepping up action for securing the return of every Ukrainian child forcibly transferred or deported by Russia and for ensuring full accountability for these crimes; whereas in May 2026, the Commission announced the mobilisation of an additional EUR 50 million to strengthen Ukraine's child protection system;

M. whereas the Council, on 28 September 2026, adopted sanctions against 10 individuals and 17 entities responsible for the systematic unlawful deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children, as well as for their forced assimilation, targeting Russian companies, children's camps and sports centres involved in programmes promoting Russian history, war commemorations and military-patriotic education, as well as state and occupation officials and camp and school heads responsible for facilitating the transfer, forced assimilation and indoctrination of Ukrainian children;

1. Demands that Russia immediately, safely and unconditionally return all deported and forcibly transferred Ukrainian children back to unoccupied Ukraine; insists that the return of children is an obligation under international law and must never be used as a bargaining instrument or made conditional upon territorial

concessions, prisoner exchanges or other political agreements;

2. Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia’s systematic deportation, forcible transfer, illegal adoption, forced Russification, indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children, including with the involvement of Belarus and the DPRK; demands the immediate cessation of these practices and reiterates that Russia bears full responsibility for respecting the rights of children under its control; mourns the hundreds of innocent Ukrainian children whose lives have been lost since the start of the full-scale invasion;

3. Underlines that Article II (e) of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, including through the forcible transfer of children belonging to one national or ethnic group to another group, as acts constituting genocide which are punishable; declares that Russia’s actions towards Ukrainian children meet the legal definition of genocide, and calls on the EU Member States to officially recognise them as such;

4. Reiterates its demands that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally cease its attacks against Ukraine’s residential areas and civilian infrastructure, including kindergartens and schools;

5. Expresses its profound solidarity with the children of Ukraine and with the families separated from them through Russia’s war of aggression; commends the dedication of Ukrainian and international civil society organisations, which, alongside victims’ families and often at personal risk, have documented abductions, maintained verified identity registries, rescued children from Russia and the temporarily occupied territories, and have supported their reintegration;

6. Demands that the Russian and Belarussian regimes provide the Ukrainian authorities and relevant international organisations with complete and verifiable information on all Ukrainian children deported or forcibly transferred to, through or within their territories, including their identities, whereabouts, health conditions and legal status; calls for an immediate end to practices involving changes to children’s names, nationality or family status that obstruct identification and family reunification;

7. Calls on the Russian regime to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other competent independent international organisations immediate, unhindered and regular access to Ukrainian children in Russia and Russian-occupied territories, and to fully cooperate with international tracing and family reunification

mechanisms;

8. Strongly condemns Russia’s systematic attempts to erase Ukrainian national identity through the imposition of Russian citizenship, unlawful adoptions, propaganda and the suppression of Ukrainian language, culture and history; demands the restoration of children’s identities and family ties and the reversal of unlawful adoption and citizenship measures; calls on third countries not to recognise illegal adoptions or documentation issued by Russian authorities in this context;

9. Demands that Ukrainian children in the temporarily Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine be allowed access to education in their native language, including through Ukrainian educational institutions and online learning, without intimidation, discrimination or punishment;

10. Denounces the systematic indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children and young people in temporarily Russian-occupied territories, including compulsory Russian educational programmes, weapons training, tactical drone instruction, military drills and recruitment into military-patriotic organisations such as ‘Yunarmiya’, as well as the forcing of Ukrainian children and young people to join Russia’s illegal war and fight against their own people; demands an immediate end to these practices and to all coercion against children, parents and teachers;

11. Expresses grave concern over the systematic violations of the fundamental rights of Ukrainian children living in Russian-occupied territories; strongly condemns Russia’s continued efforts to suppress Ukrainian national identity, language and culture; demands that Russia guarantee safe and unhindered humanitarian access, facilitate the voluntary and safe passage of children and their families to Ukrainian Government-controlled territory, and cease all practices obstructing family reunification and access to Ukrainian-language education;

12. Denounces all Russian laws, presidential decrees and administrative acts that expedite the procedure for obtaining Russian citizenship, alter personal records and streamline procedures for the forced adoption of Ukrainian children; condemns the online adoption catalogues launched by Russian occupation authorities and demands the immediate shutdown of all databases advertising Ukrainian children for adoption or foster care;

13. Condemns the intimidation, arbitrary detention, torture, sexual abuse and politically motivated prosecution of Ukrainian children by the Russian regime, including in connection with expressions of Ukrainian identity or opposition to the occupation;

14. Welcomes the efforts of Ukraine’s initiative ‘Bring Kids Back UA’ and

the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children; commends work done by organisations such as Save Ukraine, the Ukrainian Child Rights Network, Compass of Dreams and Helping to Leave; supports the work and initiatives of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine and its Child Rights Protection Centre; calls for the EU and its Member States to intensify diplomatic engagement and strengthen practical cooperation with Ukraine and international partners and organisations to accelerate the identification, documentation, tracing and return of all missing and deported Ukrainian children, in order to promptly reunite them with their parents or legal custodians in accordance with their best interests; calls for the EU and its Member States to mobilise appropriate financial and technical assistance to reinforce Ukraine’s child protection systems and trauma-informed mental health care, and to provide dedicated financial support for Ukrainian civil society, human rights and investigative organisations working to maintain verified databases, track illegally altered personal records, and preserve digital, biometric and genetic evidence of the true identities of abducted and indoctrinated children and ensure their safe return; calls on the Hungarian Government, the only Member State that has not yet joined the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, to do so without delay;

15. Calls on the Commission and the EU Member States to take the necessary steps to effectively implement the measures agreed at the high-level meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children on 11 May 2026; invites the Commission to report to the European Parliament on the implementation and 2026 results of these measures at the earliest opportunity;

16. Welcomes the Commission’s commitment to mobilise an additional EUR 50 million for Ukraine’s child protection system; calls for sustained EU and Member State financial and technical assistance for the comprehensive and long-term rehabilitation and reintegration of returned children, including psychological support, healthcare, education, legal assistance, the restoration of identity documents and family-based care; calls for sustained public awareness campaigns in Europe and internationally to expose Russia’s state-sponsored child abduction machinery and to counter hostile propaganda;

17. Welcomes the Council decisions of 23 October 2025, 11 May 2026 and 28 September 2026 imposing restrictive measures on individuals and entities responsible for child deportations; calls on the Council to further expand and strictly enforce targeted sanctions against Russian, Belarusian and North Korean officials; further calls for the sanctioning of the entire network of enablers, including Russian and Belarusian officials, federal, regional and occupation officials, children’s rights commissioners, civil registry personnel falsifying personal records, state institutions, educational establishments,

adoption agencies, foster-care administrators, camp directors, transport operators, youth organisations and entities involved in the deportation, forcible transfer, unlawful adoption, indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children; expresses grave concern over the documented involvement of Russian state-owned energy companies Gazprom and Rosneft, including their subsidiaries and trade unions, in financing and facilitating the transportation and re-education of Ukrainian children; urges the Council and the Commission to examine the findings of the March 2026 Yale investigation, assess the involvement of the entities concerned and take appropriate restrictive measures where the applicable legal criteria are met; urges the EU to swiftly sanction all corporate, financial and logistical enablers identified in the March 2026 Yale investigation, including Gazprom, Rosneft and their involved subsidiaries; reiterates its call for the coordination of sanctions with like-minded partners, regular monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness;

18. Reiterates its full support for the ICC, its unhindered activity and its arrest warrants against Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova; stresses that accountability must extend beyond top leadership to the entire chain of perpetrators and enablers executing these crimes against humanity; calls on all States Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Rome Statute and calls on the Member States to actively exercise universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute lower- and mid-level officials, administrators and collaborators, as well as to strengthen cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed against Ukraine and its people, including children; underlines the need to preserve evidence and ensure accountability and reparations for victims;

19. Reaffirms its full support for the ICC’s investigation in Ukraine and its overall efforts to prosecute individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression; expresses its utmost concern about the US sanctions against the ICC, its prosecutors, judges and staff; calls on the Commission to activate the Blocking Statute to protect the ICC from extraterritorial sanctions;

20. Supports the close collaboration between different stakeholders, including Europol and Eurojust, and the Ukrainian Ombudsman, that aim at information gathering and locating children illegally transferred to Russia, Belarus and North Korea, and at systematic evidence gathering to map the full operational network of perpetrators and enablers, with a view to the future prosecution of individuals and entities engaged in the systemic Russification, identity erasure and militarisation of Ukrainian children;

21. Strongly insists that the safe and unconditional return of all

unlawfully deported and forcibly transferred Ukrainian children constitutes not only an urgent humanitarian necessity and remain a centrepiece of international efforts to establish accountability for Russia’s crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity, but must remain a central priority in all diplomatic initiatives and negotiations concerning any genuine peace agreement ending Russia’s war of aggression; emphasises that no lasting peace can disregard the rights of these children or the accountability of those responsible for violations against them;

22. Encourages the Member States to establish dedicated national parliamentary rapporteurs and ambassadorial sponsorships for missing and deported Ukrainian children, to maintain continuous public and diplomatic scrutiny; urges the EU and the Member States to support efforts of the Ukrainian authorities, notably Ukraine’s Ministry of Justice, to maintain a digital tracking database on missing children;

23. Reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its steadfast support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders; demands that Russia immediately end its aggression and withdraw its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine;

24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the United Nations, the President, Government and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and the authorities of Russia, Belarus and North Korea.