



Report to Congress on Department of State Efforts regarding Ukrainian Children

Section 7019(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025 (Div. F, P.L. 118-47) and House Report 118-146 and the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4)

There has been no change to the Government of Ukraine's position on intercountry adoption since the Department of State's June 2025 report on this issue. The Ukrainian government continues to state that intercountry adoptions are not possible under the current state of martial law or the three months following its cancellation. Verifying whether a child meets the legal definition of an orphan, and is thus eligible for adoption, is generally not feasible during armed conflicts or humanitarian emergencies. Therefore, suspending adoption is necessary and appropriate to reduce the risk of exploitation and to prioritize reuniting children with relatives when possible.

The Department of State will explore opportunities to support programming to locate, return, and reintegrate abducted Ukrainian children and youth from the Russian Federation and Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, in line with the Administration's priorities. The Department of State continues to engage with the Government of Ukraine on this issue, including during the January visit to Kyiv of the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

The Department of State continues to regularly engage with the Ukrainian

government regarding the welfare of Ukrainian children. The Department's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report on Ukraine noted the government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period but still observed that children institutionalized in state-run orphanages, many of whom were evacuated abroad during the Russia-Ukraine war, are at especially high risk of trafficking. Officials of several state-run residential institutions have allegedly been complicit or willfully negligent in the sex and labor trafficking of children under their care. Experts note thousands of unaccompanied children, and children evacuated from at least 195 facilities (including those with disabilities) are at especially high risk of trafficking.

At this time, the Department of State is aware of 16 U.S. families who filed initial paperwork with the U.S. government to start the immigration process to adopt from Ukraine; none have been matched with a specific child, and all are in the early stages of the adoption process. Many more families previously hosted Ukrainian children through hosting programs run by the Ukrainian government but have not begun the intercountry adoption process. If Ukrainian authorities determine they are able to resume intercountry adoptions, the Department of State will work closely with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and accredited adoption service providers to provide updates on the status of their cases to families who had started the adoption process.

The Department of State remains in close communication with the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy, National Social Services of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on the viability of intercountry adoption in Ukraine. In July 2025, the Department worked with the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to update their language on the continued pause on intercountry adoptions on the English portion of the Ukrainian Embassy's website.