



**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, 2024 (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 2024 report on this issue. The Ukrainian government continues to state that intercountry adoptions are not possible under the current 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 to reduce the risk of exploitation and to prioritize reuniting children with relatives when appropriate.

The Department of State continues to regularly engage with the Ukrainian government regarding the welfare of Ukrainian children. The Department’s 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report on Ukraine noted human rights groups and media reported unsafe conditions in institutions across Ukraine, especially in Russian-occupied areas. Observers reported allegations of officials overseeing several state-run institutions and orphanages complicit or willfully negligent in the sex and labor trafficking of children under their care. NGOs observed there continued to be insufficient data on unaccompanied Ukrainian children across Europe, many displaced as a result of the Russia-Ukraine war, which increases their vulnerability to trafficking.

At this time, the Department of State is aware of 15 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, we will work closely with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and adoption service providers to provide updates to these families who had started the adoption process on the status of their cases.

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. Below is a list of some of the engagements between the Department and the Government of Ukraine since the Department's June 2024 report related specifically to Ukraine's policy on intercountry adoptions:

- In November 2023 and April 2024, the Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration met with Polish and Ukrainian officials to discuss long-term care solutions that prioritize the best interest and protection of children.
- In October 2024, the Office of Children's Issues met with the National Social Services of Ukraine about Ukrainian children physically present in the United States, who were admitted outside of the intercountry adoption process. The Ukrainian government reaffirmed that they will not resume intercountry adoptions during martial law or the three months following its cancellation.

- In November 2024, the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv met with the National Social Services of Ukraine to discuss welfare checks on these Ukrainian children currently residing in the United States who entered outside of the intercountry adoption process.