



Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

9th Plenary Meeting, 14 – 16 April 2026

In-person, Strasbourg

Meeting Room 11, Palais Building, Council of Europe

Agenda

Tuesday, 14 April	
9:00 - 9:20	 Opening Remarks: - Agnes von Maravić, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child - Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor on the Children of Ukraine, Children Rights Division
9:20 - 10:30	 Tour de table: Members and participants will briefly introduce themselves, share key initiatives undertaken by their country or organisation to support children of Ukraine since the last tour de table in December 2025, and highlight current challenges.
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:30	 Tour de table continued
11:30 - 12:45	 Accountability for Crimes against Children: Unlawful Deportation and Illegal Transfer of Ukrainian Children <i>Coordinated State-led Efforts in Ukraine</i> ➤ Update of the work of the Prosecutor General's Office relating to the investigation and prosecution of unlawful deportation and illegal transfer of children - Viktor Logachov, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine

	➤ <i>Presentation of the Registry of Information on Children Deported or Forcibly Displaced</i> - <i>Svitlana Rohozianska, Head of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (online)</i> ➤ <i>The role of the Ombudsman's Office in child return efforts</i> - <i>Oksana Cherviakova, Representative (Deputy) of the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child</i> ➤ <i>Coordinating Reintegration: Ukraine's state-led approach to supporting returned children</i> - <i>Kyrylo Lapko, Deputy Head of the Coordination Centre for Family Upbringing and Child Care Development</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Ton Liefaard, Professor of Children's Rights, Head of Department of Child Law and Health Law, Leiden University</i>
12:45 - 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 - 14:45	 Accountability for Crimes against Children: Unlawful Deportation and Illegal Transfer of Ukrainian Children (cont'd) <i>Insights from Civil Society and Academia</i> ➤ <i>Trafficking risks affecting Ukrainian children in the context of forced deportations</i> - <i>Yulia Sachenko, Independent Anti-trafficking Expert</i> ➤ <i>Update on the work of the CGU Reference Group on Indoctrination, Militarisation, and Re-education of Ukrainian Children in the Russian Federation and Temporarily Occupied Territories</i> - <i>Ton Liefaard, Professor of Children's Rights, Head of Department of Child Law and Health Law, Leiden University</i> <i>Continued discussion moderated by Maksym Tselikh, Head of the Sector for European Integration in the Field of Child Rights Protection, Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights</i>
14:45 - 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00 - 17:00	 Screening of the Film: <i>Children in the Fire</i> by Evgeny Afineevsky <i>Event co-organised with the Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the Council of Europe</i> <i>Brief opening remarks by Mykola Tochytskyi, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe and Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity – DGII, Council of Europe</i> <i>Council of Europe Projection Room, Palais</i>

17:15 - 18:00	 Discussion of the Film ➤ <i>Exchange with the Director, Evgeny Afineevsky, and a lived experience expert</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Ton Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights, Head of Department of Child Law and Health Law, Leiden University and Chair of the CGU Reference Group on Indoctrination, Militarisation, and Re-education of Ukrainian Children in the Russian Federation and Temporarily Occupied Territories</i> <i>Room 11, Palais Building</i>
18:00 - 19:00	Cocktail reception – Parliamentarians' Bar

Wednesday, 15 April

9:00 - 10:00	 Access to Education in Times of War ➤ <i>Children's right to education in Ukraine</i> - <i>Oksana Cherviakova, Representative of the Ombudsman's office Ukraine</i> ➤ <i>Countering cyber-bullying: the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Justice for Children</i> - <i>Representative of Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (TBC)</i> ➤ <i>Update on CGU work in addressing challenges of children's access to education in other Council of Europe Member States</i> - <i>Olena Styslavaska, Education Policy Expert</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Delphine Leneutre, Legal Officer, UNHCR</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 - 11:30	 Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation in Child Protection Responses and Possible Return Procedures ➤ <i>Current updates and preconditions for the safe return of Ukrainian children from Council of Europe member states</i> - <i>Valentyna Zozulia, Head of the State Service of Ukraine for Children</i> ➤ <i>Strengthening interstate cooperation in the international protection of children: practical case studies</i> - <i>Viktor Zelenyi, Director of the Department of State Control over Compliance with Children's Rights, National Social Service of Ukraine (online)</i>

	➤ <i>Update on the Core Group of Experts' work on coordination, cooperation, and safe returns</i> - <i>Morten Kjaerum, Independent expert, Coordinator of Core Group of Experts</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Morten Kjaerum and Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann</i>
11:30 - 12:30	 The Impact of War on Children with Disabilities ➤ <i>Update on the work of the newly constituted CGU Advisory Group on the Impact of War on Children with Disabilities</i> - <i>Jean-Claude Legrand, Independent expert, co-facilitator of the Advisory Group</i> ➤ <i>Presentation of the report on best practices and experiences in establishing specialised foster families caring for children with disabilities</i> - <i>Elayn Sammon, Independent expert and co-facilitator of the CGU Advisory Group</i> ➤ <i>Current challenges and efforts in ensuring pathways for children with disabilities</i> - <i>Iryna Tuliakova, Head of Coordination Center for Family Upbringing and Childcare Development (online)</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Maria João Fernandes, Vice-President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People, CGU member on behalf of Portugal, member of the CGU Advisory Group</i>
12:30 - 13:45	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:45 - 14:30	 Update on the Better Care Reform ➤ <i>Update by the Coordination Center for Family Upbringing and Childcare Development</i> - <i>Inna Bielobratova, International Relations Manager, Coordination Center for Family Upbringing and Childcare Development</i> ➤ <i>Update by UNICEF</i> - <i>Van Chi Pham, Child Protection Manager, UNICEF Ukraine (online)</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Jean-Claude Legrand, Independent Child Rights Expert and CGU Facilitator</i>
14:30 - 15:15	 Exchange of views with the Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the Situation of Children of Ukraine, Thordis Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir (online)

	<i>Discussion moderated by Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor on the Children of Ukraine, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</i>
15:15 - 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 - 16:30	 Transitioning Legal Protections in Europe ➤ <i>Update on the Temporary Protection Directive</i> - <i>Csilla Völgyi, Policy Officer, Migration Management Coordination, Task Force Ukraine, European Commission (online)</i> ➤ <i>Options for Phasing Out Temporary Protection</i> - <i>Martin Wagner, Senior Policy Advisor, International Centre for Migration Policy Development</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Nikos Sitaropoulos, Head of Division on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe</i>
16:30 - 17:00	 Presentation of the YoU Decide Research Report: <i>Reclaiming our voices: Ukrainian youth navigating forced displacement in Czechia, Hungary and Poland</i> - <i>Alyona Samar, Senior Programmes Officer, Migration, Missing Children Europe</i> <i>Discussion moderated by Anne Kayser, Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</i>
17:00 - 17:30	 Wrapping Up: Final Remarks, Concrete Takeaways, and Proposed Way Forward <i>Session moderated by Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor on the Children of Ukraine and Jean-Claude Legrand, Independent Child Rights Expert and CGU Facilitator</i>

Thursday, 16 April

9:00 - 17:00	THEMATIC EXPERT EXCHANGE on <i>Technology-Facilitated and AI-Enabled Violence Affecting Children in Conflict: Evidence, Accountability and Protection Responses with a Focus on Ukraine</i> <i>An agenda will be disseminated separately.</i>
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