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# Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

# The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine

## Revised terms of reference[1]

Duration: June 2024 - 31 December 2026[2]

In accordance with the Bureau decision of 7 March 2024 to invite the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to consider the setting-up of a Network on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine in the framework of the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 26 of Resolution 2529 (2024) on "the situation of the children of Ukraine", the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe shall be constituted in the June 2024 part-session of the Assembly under the auspices of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The terms of reference of the Network were adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its meeting on 3 June 2024 for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly.

**Aim of the Network**

1. In accordance with Resolution 2529 (2024), it is the task of the Network to provide support to the Assembly "to continue its role as a facilitator (…) to support the Ukrainian authorities and various international organisations, such as UNICEF, the UNHCR, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other competent United Nations agencies, and the ICRC, in determining the most rapid means to identify and facilitate an effective search for children, with access to as much information as possible about their identity and the conditions of their deportation or forcible transfer by the Russian Federation."

In particular, as a platform of exchange, the Network should:

- facilitate the coordination between Ukrainian authorities, international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders

- facilitate the rapid and effective implementation of existing mechanisms and contribute to finding new mechanisms, as appropriate, for the identification, tracing and repatriation of deported Ukrainian children

[1] Revised terms of reference approved by the Bureau at its meeting on 23 June 2025 and ratified by the Assembly on 23 June 2025.
[2] The extension of the Network's mandate until 31 December 2026 was approved by the Bureau of the Assembly on 12 December 2025.

- ensure that returned Ukrainian children are smoothly reintegrated

- promote the protection of the rights of displaced and refugee Ukrainian children

- ensure promotion and dissemination of Council of Europe standards and of Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) tools and deliverables

- support the access of Ukrainian children to education and healthcare, including treatment and psychological support for those affected by war.

**Composition of the Network**

2. The Network shall be composed of:

2.1. In respect of the 46 member States of the Council of Europe: for each unicameral parliament, one titular and one substitute member of parliament, appointed by their national delegation; for each for bicameral parliament, one titular and one substitute member of each chamber of the parliament, appointed by their national delegation.

2.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: one member of each national delegation, appointed by the national delegation.

2.3. Three members appointed by each of the following Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly:

- Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
- Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
- Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
- Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination.

2.4. One associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

3. The members of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the chairpersons of political groups and the President of the Assembly, shall be *ex officio* members of the Network.

**Working methods of the Network**

4. In terms of the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Network shall be assimilated to a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. All members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development shall be entitled to attend the Network's meetings.

5. The working languages of the Network shall be English and French.

6. The Network shall hold its first meeting during the 2024 fourth part-session of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October), with the President of the Assembly in the Chair and shall elect its Bureau amongst its members on this occasion.

7. In fulfilling its task set out in paragraph 1 of these terms of reference, the Network shall be inspired by international and European treaties, United Nations declarations and reports, and texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly, in particular those related to the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

8. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

9. The Network may rely on the “Bring Kids Back UA” initiative and on information sharing with Ukrainian civil society.

10. The Network shall endeavour to limit its environmental impact.