

Top Doctors Ask Putin to Allow U.S. Parents to Adopt 100 Children

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Уважаемый Президент Путин!

Группа специалистов – детских врачей, психологов и педагогов – обращается к Вам с убедительной просьбой в интересах детей-сирот завершить процедуры уже начавшихся усыновлений американскими семьями.

Вступивший в силу Федеральный закон № 272-ФЗ от 28.12.12, запрещающий усыновление российских сирот гражданами США, поставил в наиболее сложную психологическую ситуацию этих детей. Особенно это коснулось тех сирот, которые многократно встречались со своими потенциальными американскими родителями (всего более ста детей). У многих из них процедура усыновления была прервана, хотя документы уже находились в суде на рассмотрении.

В противовес распространяющемуся в последнее время в СМИ мнению о «гибкости» детской психики, которая легко справляется с серьезными эмоциональными травмами, наш профессиональный опыт и знания говорят об обратном. Неоднократный разрыв эмоциональных связей вызывает, особенно у малышей, очень тяжелые посттравматические проявления, расстройства привязанности и другие психические нарушения.

A screen grab of the open letter signed by 171 child experts, including several who worked with young Beslan survivors.

A group of top Russian child psychologists, psychiatrists and educators have appealed to President Vladimir Putin to allow about 100 Russian children who were in the final stages of the adoption process to be allowed to join their new U.S. parents.

The open letter says the children had met with the potential parents many times and developed an emotion attachment, but the courts were unable to finalize the adoptions before the government swiftly imposed a ban on U.S. parents adopting Russian children on Jan. 1.

"Even though the media lately have the opinion that a child's mind is 'flexible' and can easily cope with severe emotional trauma, our expertise and knowledge shows otherwise," the letter says. "The repeated disruption of emotional relationships, especially in children, can lead

to severe attachment disorder and other psychiatric disorders."

Among the 171 signatories are people who have worked with severely traumatized children, including young survivors of the Beslan school hostage tragedy.

The letter says all the children in question were abandoned by their biological parents, and some had begun the adoption process with more than 10 different Russian parents, only to see it fail. Only then were they put up for international adoption.

"After long meetings with the American adoptive parents, the children have grown emotionally attached to them, managed to learn to love them, and have already begun to perceive them as their own daddies and mommies," the letter says. "It is unacceptable that these little children again have to experience betrayal and abandonment. After such a psychological trauma, they will not be able to trust people, live normally, and successfully develop further."

The letter also notes that many of the children have serious psychological disorders and health problems that require care unavailable in Russia.

The letter, dated April 12, only attracted public attention this week after one of the signatories, cartoonist and former psychiatrist Andrei Bilzho, posted it on [Facebook](#).

The signatories submitted the letter to Putin's televised call-in show on April 25, but it was not mentioned on air. Now they are hoping to gather more signatures before formally sending it to Putin, the BBC's Russian Service [reported](#).

The Kremlin had no immediate comment on the petition. The country is in the middle of an extended May Day public holiday and only returns to work Monday.

Putin has been spending the holiday in his native St. Petersburg, and on Thursday evening he attended a ceremony opening a new stage at the Mariinsky Theater.

The ban on U.S. adoptions is widely seen as the Kremlin's response to a U.S. decision to blacklist Russian officials implicated of human rights abuses. The Kremlin has denied any link, but Ireland [announced](#) Thursday that it would not endorse its own blacklist after Russia threatened to halt child adoptions to Irish parents.

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