

# Russia Returns 7 Ukrainian Children to Their Families in Initiative Backed by Melania Trump

December 04, 2025



Melania Trump. **The White House**

Russia has returned seven Ukrainian children to their families with the help of U.S. First Lady Melania Trump, the White House [said](#) Thursday.

Six boys and one girl were reunited with their families in Ukraine as part of Trump's "reunification initiative."

The Kremlin's children's rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova [confirmed](#) the return and thanked the first lady for her "unwavering commitment and involvement in the effort."

Trump said in October that she had [been in touch](#) with Russian President Vladimir Putin via a representative about the fate of Ukrainian children who have been taken to Russia since the full-scale invasion in February 2022.

She said that Putin had responded to a letter she sent via her husband, President Donald

Trump, at a summit with the Russian leader in Alaska in August.

Lvova-Belova and Putin are wanted by the International Criminal Court for the suspected unlawful transfer of Ukrainian children into Russia, an act prosecutors classify as a war crime. Russia, which does not recognize the ICC, has dismissed the charges.

Kyiv accuses Moscow of deporting more than 19,000 children since the start of the full-scale invasion, a claim Russia denies. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said Thursday that only 1,850 children had been [returned](#) so far.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Wednesday, which was joined by the United States, [demanding](#) that Russia immediately return all forcibly transferred Ukrainian children.

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