

# Children Praying for Children: UNWLA Hosts 51 Prayer Events Nationwide Urging Return of Abducted Ukrainian Children

*Launched in 2024, UNWLA's annual campaign, Children Praying for Children, raises awareness and support for 19,546 Ukrainian children abducted by Russian forces.*

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, June 20, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Ukrainian National Women's League of America ([UNWLA](#)), a national organization with a century-long

history of supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, has once again demonstrated the power of grassroots mobilization through its [Children Praying for Children](#) campaign.

Launched in 2024, this annual campaign aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the more than 19,546 Ukrainian children who have been

“

51 prayer events nationwide show Americans stand with Ukrainian children. They must be returned before any peace deal.”

*Natalie Pawlenko, UNWLA  
President*

illegally abducted by Russian authorities from temporarily occupied territories. In addition, hundreds of thousands of children have been displaced, injured, or killed as a result of the ongoing war.

Children Praying for Children brings American children and their families together across faith communities for a powerful moment of unity, empathy, and action.

During the weekend of May 31–June 1, UNWLA branches and partner organizations hosted [51 prayer events across](#)

[14 states](#), including an interfaith event in Washington, D.C., organized in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S.

A national map of Children Praying for Children events is available here:

<https://forkids.unwla.org/>

The D.C. event featured a moving video prayer by Ukrainian children from displaced families, supported through UNWLA's educational initiatives. Watch the video here <https://youtu.be/-gb1GOfMGcg>

Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Oksana Markarova addressed attendees, emphasizing the



More than 19,546 Ukrainian children were illegally abducted by the Russian forces.

importance of keeping the tragedy of abducted Ukrainian children in the public eye:

"Pray, stand up, speak up, and never forget!"

In a follow-up statement, the Embassy of Ukraine shared:

"We cannot let stolen children become just another statistic. And we must not let those who commit genocide in the 21st century walk away without consequences. Today, we pray. Tomorrow, we continue to act."

One of the keynote speakers at the D.C. event was Special Presidential Envoy to Ukraine, Ret. Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who later posted:

"Children are the hope of any nation, and the moral clarity of the issue should not be up for discussion. The children need to be returned!"

Senator Chuck Grassley, who introduced S.Res.236, delivered a video message calling for the return of abducted children as a non-negotiable prerequisite for any peace agreement to end the war.

In Philadelphia, PA, Congresswoman Madeleine Dean (PA-4) shared a heartfelt video message at the event organized by UNWLA Branch 146:

"...We must not forget the tens of thousands of children who have been forcibly deported by Russia and remain missing. We are at a pivotal moment as ceasefire negotiations start and stop. The United States must stand firm in our support for Ukraine's young democracy—and we must be strong in our position as the indispensable nation." Watch Congresswoman's video message here:

<https://youtu.be/76lnPeIOJP4>

UNWLA President Natalie Pawlenko remarked:

"The overwhelming response to Children Praying for Children, with over 50 events nationwide, shows that the American people stand with Ukraine and its children. We are deeply grateful to all who joined us in this urgent call for justice. The return of abducted Ukrainian children is non-negotiable—and must be a prerequisite for any peace agreement. We urge continued advocacy



The Ukrainian National Women's League of America celebrates its 100th anniversary and is the longest-running Ukrainian women's organization in the United States.



Number of characters: Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S. Oksana Markarova, children of Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian School, U.S. Special Envoy Ret. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Archbishop Borys Gudziak and other esteemed guests

for S.Res.236 and every effort to bring these children home.”

Additional information: The Impact on Children in Ukraine

19,546 children forcibly deported by Russia to Russian-controlled areas

1345 children were returned to Ukraine

630 children killed

1,960 children injured

About UNWLA

The Ukrainian National Women’s League of America celebrates its 100th anniversary and is the longest-running Ukrainian women’s organization in the United States. Since 1925, UNWLA has been dedicated to advocating for Ukraine, supporting Ukraine’s cultural and civic development, and providing humanitarian aid.

Learn more about the UNWLA <https://unwla.org>

Learn more about the campaign: <https://unwla.org/news/children-praying-for-children-2025/>

Anna Bereznyak

Ukrainian National Women's League of America

[communications@unwla.org](mailto:communications@unwla.org)

Visit us on social media:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/823933763>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.