

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5800

To authorize the imposition of sanctions to combat the mass abduction of Ukrainian children to Russia and areas of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the imposition of sanctions to combat the mass abduction of Ukrainian children to Russia and areas of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Oleksander Ivanov Act
5 of 2023” or “Oleksander’s Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On February 24, 2022, Russia, under the
4 leadership of Vladimir Putin, launched a premedi-
5 tated war against Ukraine in an attack on democ-
6 racy and a grave violation of international law, glob-
7 al peace, and security.

8 (2) According to the United Nations High Com-
9 missioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of September
10 19, 2023, there were more than 5.8 million Ukrain-
11 ian refugees recorded in Europe and more than
12 369,000 Ukrainian refugees recorded globally.

13 (3) The unjust and brutal war has put millions
14 of Ukrainian women and children at risk of traf-
15 ficking, millions of children have been deprived of
16 their education and are experiencing trauma, and
17 according to a report by Yale University, more than
18 6,000 children are in Russians custody.

19 (4) According to a report by Yale University
20 Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale HRL), at least
21 6,000 children from Ukraine ages four months to 17
22 years have been held at camps and other facilities
23 within Russia-occupied Crimea and mainland Russia
24 since Russia's full-scale invasion began.

25 (5) There are at least 43 camps and facilities
26 where the Russian government has interned Ukrain-

1 ian children. Out of the various camps, 12 are situ-
2 ated near the Black Sea, 7 are found within Russian
3 occupied Crimea, and 10 are grouped around the
4 areas of Moscow, Kazan, and Yekaterinburg. In ad-
5 dition, 11 of these camps are positioned at distances
6 exceeding 500 miles from Ukraine's border with
7 Russia, with two camps located in Siberia and one
8 in the Far East of Russia.

9 (6) Among the camps identified by Yale Univer-
10 sity Humanitarian Research Lab, at least 32 (78
11 percent) of the camps seem to be engaged in orga-
12 nized re-education initiatives that subject Ukrainian
13 children to Russia-focused educational, cultural, pa-
14 triotic, and/or military teachings.

15 (7) Yale University Humanitarian Research
16 Lab identified two camps that housed children who
17 were alleged to be orphans. Those children were
18 later placed into Russian foster families. Specifically,
19 20 children from these camps were placed into fami-
20 lies in Moscow and were enrolled in local schools in
21 Moscow.

22 (8) Ukrainian children have had their names
23 and birthdates changed when adopted, making them
24 difficult to trace.

1 (9) This scheme is centrally coordinated by the
2 Russian government and is comprised of actors from
3 every level of government. According to the report by
4 Yale HRL, there are several dozen federal, regional,
5 and local officials that are engaged in politically jus-
6 tifying the program and at least 12 of these individ-
7 uals are not on U.S. and/or international sanction
8 lists.

9 (10) In May 2022, President Putin signed a de-
10 cree simplifying the procedure of obtaining Russian
11 citizenship for purported Ukrainian orphans and
12 children without parental care, thereby expediting
13 the process of illegal adoption of deported Ukrainian
14 children by Russian families.

15 (11) Forcibly transferring children of one group
16 to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the
17 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of
18 the Crime of Genocide 1948 and the Geneva Con-
19 vention IV, including articles 24, 25, 50, 78, and 82.

20 (12) The International Criminal Court has in-
21 dicted Russian President Vladimir Putin and Rus-
22 sian Commissioner for Children’s Rights Maria
23 Lvova-Beleva for the war crime of unlawful deporta-
24 tion of population (children) and that of unlawful
25 transfer of population (children) from occupied areas

1 of Ukraine to the Russian Federation under articles
2 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute.

3 (13) On August 24, 2023, the Biden Adminis-
4 tration imposed financial blocking sanctions and
5 pursuing visa restrictions pursuant to section
6 1(a)(iii)(A) of E.O. 14024 on 12 individuals and a
7 Russian government-owned entity that “played a
8 role in forcibly deporting Ukrainian children from
9 Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia, and/or
10 transferring Ukrainian children within Russia-occu-
11 pied areas of Ukraine.”.

12 (14) As reported by the Ukrainian Ministry of
13 Education, over 400 schools have been destroyed
14 and an additional 2,600 schools are damaged across
15 Ukraine. According to the United Nations Childrens
16 Fund (UNICEF), the education of Ukrainian chil-
17 dren is at risk, as 5.3 million children currently face
18 barriers preventing their access to education, with
19 3.6 million children directly impacted by school clo-
20 sures.

21 (15) Reports by the United Nations Children’s
22 Fund also indicate that the war is having a dev-
23 astating impact on the mental health and well-being
24 of Ukrainian children. Specifically, around 1.5 mil-
25 lion children are at risk of depression, anxiety, post-

1 traumatic stress disorder and other mental health
2 issues with potential long-term effects and implica-
3 tions.

4 (16) The war has also caused Ukrainian women
5 and children to become more vulnerable to being
6 trafficked. The United Nations High Commissioner
7 for Refugees reports that 90 percent of the 5.8 mil-
8 lion refugees who have fled Ukraine for Europe are
9 women and children. Reports have stated that traf-
10 fickers patrol border entry points, train stations, and
11 refugee centers with the purpose of attracting and
12 exploiting refugees. Specifically, traffickers lure in
13 refugees with promises of accommodation, transpor-
14 tation, and employment, sometimes disguising them-
15 selves as volunteers providing humanitarian assist-
16 ance.

17 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
19 should—

20 (1) support programs specifically for trauma
21 treatment and healing, rehabilitation and where nec-
22 essary prostheses, for Ukrainian children affected by
23 the war against Ukraine launched by Russia includ-
24 ing nationwide educational programs of psycho-
25 logical support to address trauma and stress for all

1 Ukrainian children, integrated into school cur-
2 riculum and offered through clinical and social serv-
3 ices;

4 (2) support programs to rebuild the education
5 system in Ukraine and education for Ukrainian child
6 refugees, in cooperation with other countries, inter-
7 national organizations, and civil society;

8 (3) support the development of a unified and
9 consolidated searchable registry of missing Ukrain-
10 ian children in order to facilitate identification of
11 children and family reunification, which should en-
12 sure strict data protection and availability in the
13 Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages;

14 (4) ensure the public is made aware of the ex-
15 istence of, and how to use, such registry;

16 (5) support the development of a unified central
17 emergency call center hub linked to law enforcement
18 in Ukraine and in other countries to enable report-
19 ing on and interventions on behalf of missing
20 Ukrainian children and suspected cases of human
21 trafficking and sexual exploitation, including online,
22 of Ukrainian children;

23 (6) support the development of an international
24 mechanism to facilitate vetting of volunteers and
25 other non-governmental front-line responders work-

1 ing with refugees or with victims of other major cri-
2 ses or natural disasters by law enforcement or other
3 governmental authorities;

4 (7) support efforts (including the efforts de-
5 scribed in paragraph (6)) to only allow appropriately
6 vetted and credentialed individuals access to refu-
7 gees;

8 (8) continue to support efforts by the Govern-
9 ment of Ukraine to increase collaboration with Euro-
10 pean counterparts on anti-trafficking investigations
11 and increased awareness efforts;

12 (9) support the development of robust child
13 protective mechanisms for vulnerable children, in-
14 cluding Ukrainian children, in Ukraine and in coun-
15 tries that have received Ukrainian refugees, that in-
16 clude social assistance and protection to help prevent
17 human trafficking and sexual abuse of Ukrainian
18 children; and

19 (10) work with Ukrainian authorities to ensure
20 that law enforcement officials stationed at major
21 border crossing points in Ukraine during a refugee
22 crisis are appropriately trained to prevent human
23 trafficking and support other measures to monitor
24 for indications of human trafficking targeting refu-
25 gees in areas surrounding border crossings.

1 **SEC. 4. SANCTIONS AUTHORITY.**

2 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President may impose the
3 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any
4 foreign person that the President, or Secretary of the
5 Treasury (in consultation with the Secretary of State), de-
6 termines is responsible for engaging in, or facilitating, any
7 of the following:

8 (1) The forced displacement, including mass ab-
9 duction of Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-
10 controlled areas of Ukraine.

11 (2) The illegal forced assimilation, adoption, or
12 placement in a foster home of Ukrainian children.

13 (3) Involvement of any form in the trafficking
14 of Ukrainians in Ukraine or Ukrainian refugees.

15 (b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions de-
16 scribed in this subsection are the following:

17 (1) **BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.**—The blocking, in
18 accordance with the International Emergency Eco-
19 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), of all
20 transactions in all property and interests in property
21 of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if
22 such property and interests in property are in the
23 United States, come within the United States, or are
24 or come within the possession or control of a United
25 States person.

1 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
2 PAROLE.—

3 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A
4 foreign person described in subsection (a) may
5 be—

6 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

7 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
8 documentation to enter the United States;
9 and

10 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
11 or paroled into the United States or to re-
12 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
13 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
14 seq.).

15 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

16 (i) IN GENERAL.—A foreign person
17 described in subsection (a) may be subject
18 to revocation of any visa or other entry
19 documentation regardless of when the visa
20 or other entry documentation is or was
21 issued.

22 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
23 tion under clause (i) shall—

24 (I) take effect immediately; and

1 (II) automatically cancel any
2 other valid visa or entry documenta-
3 tion that is in the possession of the
4 foreign person.

5 (c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL
6 OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not
7 apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or pa-
8 roling the person into the United States is necessary to
9 permit the United States to comply with the Agreement
10 regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed
11 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
12 November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the
13 United States, or other applicable international obliga-
14 tions.

15 (d) SUNSET.—The authority to impose sanctions
16 under this section shall terminate on the date that is 6
17 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

19 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
21 the appropriate congressional committees and the Com-
22 mission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (com-
23 monly referred to as the “U.S. Helsinki Commission”) a
24 report on United States efforts for the reintegration of
25 Ukrainian children affected by the war against Ukraine

1 launched by Russia, including a description of any such
2 efforts to support—

3 (1) the rebuilding and redevelopment of the
4 Ukrainian education system; and

5 (2) the implementation of mental health pro-
6 grams to address trauma and family separations
7 among such Ukrainian children.

8 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

15 (2) **CHILD.**—The term “child” means an indi-
16 vidual under the age of 18.

17 (3) **UKRAINIAN CHILD.**—The term “Ukrainian
18 child” means a child born in Ukraine or an inhab-
19 itant of Ukraine, regardless of whether the child is
20 subsequently trafficked or forced to assume Russian
21 citizenship.

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