

Distinguished colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

I speak on behalf of a country that has lived under unprovoked armed aggression by the Russian Federation for 11 years. For more than three and a half years now, my country has endured a full-scale war.

Every single day, we lose the most precious thing—human lives. This war is taking away the lives of soldiers, doctors, teachers, and children.

A Russian missile struck Kyiv, destroying Ukraine's largest children's hospital.

That day alone, 27 people were killed in Kyiv.

On the night of July 9, Russia set a grim record: 728 drones and 13 missiles were launched at Ukraine.

I share this with you so that you understand just how resilient and strong the Ukrainian nation is.

Ukrainians continue to defend our sovereignty, our land, and they continue to work—because we are a peaceful nation.

Distinguished colleagues,

I want you to fully grasp the scale of the tragedy, the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine—the largest since the Second World War.

I want you to understand the scale of abduction, forced relocation, and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia.

**19,546 children.**

This is the official number of Ukrainian children who have been abducted or deported by Russia.

In addition to that, **1.6 million** Ukrainian children are living in temporarily occupied territories.

They are denied the right to their native language and their own history, to pray in the Ukrainian church.

They are being taught to hate Ukraine, they are militarised, and are being prepared to fight against their own country.  
This is a crime—the crime of **indoctrination**.

These crimes are being investigated by the International Criminal Court.

They are condemned by international organisations and missions.

**I am sincerely grateful to the parliaments of the world that have passed resolutions in support of Ukrainian children.**

I thank the United States for highlighting an essential detail, twice now, in a registered resolution:

The return of abducted children to Ukraine cannot be part of any peace negotiation.

**The return of children must be unconditional.**

I urge the parliaments of the world to join the international coalition “Bring Kids Back UA, which already includes over 40 countries.

Together, we have managed to bring home **1,465 children**.

Only together can we achieve results. That is the essence of parliamentary cooperation.

**What can the parliaments of the world do to support Ukraine?**

We welcome the clear and consistent stance of the IPU, including the resolutions of the 144th and 145th Assemblies.

**But explain this to me:**

**Why is the delegation of the aggressor state—condemned by all major international organisations, including the UN and the IPU—here today?**

**Why do countries that have imposed sanctions on russian officials still welcome them?**

**This is double standards! This is unacceptable!**

If you want peace in the world and want to help Ukraine:

Approve military and humanitarian assistance.  
Especially air defence systems. These are humanitarian tools—**they save civilian lives.**

Strengthen sanctions against the aggressor state.  
Frozen russian assets must be used for the reconstruction of what has been destroyed.

We welcome initiatives such as the London “Coalition of the Willing” and the Weimar+ format—these are examples of strong, coordinated European leadership.

That is why we call on all IPU member parliaments to actively engage in peacebuilding efforts.  
In particular, to participate in the **Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform.**

And also:

**Visit Ukraine.** The acts of solidarity are deeply inspiring.

Ukraine remains open to dialogue.  
President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly stated our readiness for peace talks, including an unconditional ceasefire.  
But peace cannot be one-sided.

Ukraine has endured thanks to our cooperation with you, thanks to the support from our partners.  
I am sincerely grateful to every parliament that has made the decision to stand with Ukraine.

We have also endured thanks to our faith.  
Faith in ourselves and faith in what is right.

And we believe: we will win!

Thank you for your support.  
Thank you for your attention.