



Ukrainos centras
Український центр

Forum Discussion

«Three Years, Countless Futures: Protecting
Freedom and Ukraine's Children»
Third Commemoration of Russia's War Against Ukraine

February 21, 2025

PROGRAMME

12:30 – 13:00 Welcoming coffee

Photo opportunity with speakers of the Forum Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Opening Ceremony

- Opening Song of the Ukrainian Center's Kids' Choir
- Introductory words: Moderator Vice-Rector for Communication of Vytautas Magnus University **Vilma Bijeikienė**
- Welcome Speech by the First Lady of Lithuania **Diana Nausėdienė**
- Welcome Address by the First Lady of Ukraine **Olena Zelenska** (video address)
- Keynote by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania **Kęstutis Budrys**
- Keynote by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine **Andrii Sybiha** (live via VTC)
- Host notes by the Ambassador of Ukraine to Lithuania **Olha Nikitchenko**
- Host notes by the Rector of Vytautas Magnus University **Juozas Augutis**

14:00 – 14:10 Keynote speaker of the Forum Discussion

Thordis Kolbrun Reykþord Gylfadottir, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the situation of children of Ukraine.

14:10 – 14:15 Technical break (Panel change)

14:15 – 15:35 Panel 1: Ukraine's Children – A Future Under Threat

- Moderator of the panel – **Mindaugas Jurkynas**, Professor of the Faculty of Political Sciences and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University
- Video testimony of a child who was returned from the Russian Federation

Speakers:

- **Daria Herasymchuk**, Advisor - Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights and Child Rehabilitation, Ukraine

- **Ivan Matkovskiy**, a Ukrainian student who was rescued from forced deportation to Russia by returning from the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region
- **Jeanette Eileen Sautner**, Ambassador of Canada to Lithuania
- **Denis Ougrin**, Child and Adolescent psychiatrist, visiting professor at King's College London, UK
- **Olexandra Baty**, Head of Project at the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen Global Platform

The core focus on:

- The scale and systematic nature of forced deportation and illegal adoption.
- Psychological and social impact on children and families.
- Ukraine's progress in locating, returning, and reintegrating abducted children.

15:35 – 15:50 Panel change

15:50 – 17:10 Panel 2: International Support for Reintegration and Recovery

- Moderator of the panel – **Janet Anderson**, former BBC journalist
- A video about the Ukrainian center and the people who visit it, sharing their testimonies about the experiences they have endured and the support and assistance they received at the center

Speakers:

- **Oksana Zholnovych**, Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine (live via VTC)
- **Deimantė Bukeikaitė**, Vice Minister of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania
- **Miapetra Kumpula-Natri**, Deputy Chair of the PACE (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) network on the situation of the children of Ukraine
- **Robert van Voren**, Chief Executive of Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP and professor of political science and Director of the Andrei Sakharov Research Center for Democratic Development at Vytautas Magnus University
- **Natalia Masiak**, child psychiatrist at Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, and member of the Supervisory Board of the Voices of Children Charitable Foundation

The core focus on:

- Lithuania's contributions as a steadfast partner in advancing reintegration efforts.
- Best practices for reintegration, emphasizing education, trauma recovery, and family-centered care.
- The role of international partnerships in supporting Ukrainian institutions and civil society to rebuild lives of returned Ukrainian children.

17:10 – Final remarks

17:30 – Networking Reception

