



International action in memory of the children killed during the war in Ukraine

Date of the event: June 1, 2022.

Purpose: to draw attention to the killings of Ukrainian children during the war.

Venues: capitals and cities around the world: from New York to London, from Tokyo to Vienna, from Paris to Sydney, from Warsaw to Kyiv, near theaters or in the central squares.

Technically required:

1. Representatives of creative teams with candles visualize the inscription "Children" on the iconic squares or in front of theater buildings.
2. Evening time is recommended.
3. Co-organizers are asked to provide high-quality video content of the event (recording the action with the help of drones).

Background reference: Mariupol became the hottest spot on the map of Ukraine. The city on the coast of the Sea of Azov is blockaded by Russian troops, who regularly shell residential areas. It is a huge humanitarian catastrophe, because there is no electricity and communication in the city, not enough food and medicine. The corpses lie right on the streets, and mass graves appeared in the courtyards of houses.

Symbolism: on March 16, 2022, the Russian occupiers destroyed the Drama Theater in Mariupol, which served as a bomb shelter for the civilian population. The cynicism of the bombing was that there was an inscription "Children" on the ground, visible from a height to protect against attacks. This cultural institution was a place of protection for the people of Mariupol from the humanitarian catastrophe. After this horror, the number of child victims is growing daily. More than 200 children have already been killed, about 400 wounded, and tens of thousands forcibly deported from eastern Ukraine to the territory of the terrorist country. Mariupol Drama Theater has become a symbol of devaluation of human life and destruction of cultural heritage. We want the world to see it.



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Synopsis: International Children's Day is celebrated annually on June 1 and is one of the most important international days. The main purpose of Children's Day is to draw public attention to the real problems that children face. The life of a child in civilized countries is priceless and has to be protected from all forms of violence. On Children's Day, various charity events are organized, which are aimed at improving the lives of children. With their help, funds are raised to help children around the world, so we cannot ignore the opportunity to once again convey to the whole world about the terrible events that are taking place in Ukraine right now. More than 600 children have already suffered, and we must act and draw public attention to the Ukrainian tragedy, because absolutely every child has a legal right to a happy childhood. Children need us now more than ever and we have to demonstrate to the world the price of the Ukrainian pain paid for by hundreds of killed and tortured children. The Russian military is killing civilians without a drop of pity and our history is written in the 21st century with blood on the ground. In addition to legal and diplomatic measures, we hope that such symbolic actions will stop the darkness of innocent deaths that has engulfed Ukraine. Several Austrian and Ukrainian theaters have already agreed to take part in the event in accordance to join our international demonstration.

Expected Effect:

- common grief with Ukrainian families who have lost children;
- uniting the cultural sphere around the global problem of overcoming violence against children;
- attracting the attention of international institutions specializing in the protection of children's rights;
- strengthening the Ukrainian information front.

Sincerely,
Yana Barinova
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Kyiv City State Administration
and special project manager in European policy
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