

## **The Children of Ukraine Foundation**

Submission to the Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation  
(A/RES/78/31)

The Children of Ukraine Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity, delivers humanitarian assistance to underserved children in Ukraine, working to mitigate the impact of war and lay the groundwork for a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Over the last two years, The Children of Ukraine Foundation has focused on providing critical humanitarian and resettlement assistance to families, orphanages, and grassroots organizations. This includes direct aid such as food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, and educational resources, as well as support for integration into new communities. By addressing the immediate and long-term needs of conflict-affected youth, the Foundation helps children not only survive the traumatic consequences of war but also restore their livelihoods. By fostering conditions for lasting stability, the Foundation creates resilient societies where young people can envision and build a future that is rooted in peace and security.

To better understand the impact of conflict on youth, as well as the necessity of disarmament, Executive Director Sofia Polishchuk conducted original research on “The Transnational Experiences of Ukrainian Displaced Children.” Published by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute in May 2024, the report documents the journeys of dozens of displaced children who traveled to unfamiliar host communities and confronted physical or psychological trauma. The report illustrates a heartbreaking picture of loss, endurance, adaptation, and hope. It also underscores the need for robust disarmament and nonproliferation efforts to prevent future generations from enduring similar hardship.

Furthermore, The Children of Ukraine Foundation has actively participated in key international forums to amplify the voices and needs of conflict-affected youth. At the Summit of the Future and the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the Foundation highlighted the unique challenges facing young people in conflict zones, shared best practices for delivering humanitarian assistance, and advocated for short-term remedies, as well as long-term, sustainable solutions. The Foundation emphasized the destabilizing effects of armed conflict on youth development, urging stakeholders to protect vulnerable populations by prioritizing disarmament and non-proliferation in their decision-making.

The Children of Ukraine Foundation believes that empowering youth who have endured conflict is integral to advancing the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. The Foundation remains committed to ensuring that young people affected by war are heard, supported, and prepared to become advocates for peace in their communities and beyond.