

## **Child Policy & National Strength: Restoring Ukraine in the Best Interests of the Child**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Through decades of conflict, invasion, and political and military confusion, national identity has struggled, as has national child policy. While Ukrainian family law is one of most innovative and advanced in Europe, this article presents the notion that robust and resilient state policies toward children and their families are the key missing piece to Ukraine national strength. Child policy is an important part of developing a new strategy to ensure not only a child's survival in an unstable and transforming society, but it can also work to support the stability of the state, its economic development, and its governmental security. These priorities depend, we think at least in part, on the welfare of Ukraine's children. We argue that current events in Ukraine compel a review of state child policy, while offering how that policy can help to develop and steady national strength for Ukraine that may assist in stabilizing the nation even in the midst of and after current geopolitical struggle.

Part I of this article reviews the current state of Ukraine child policy. It offers factual evidence regarding the circumstances facing Ukrainian children today. Part II explains various models of child policy, explaining what is and is not effective and why. Part III applies a new standard to Ukraine child policy, offering numerous suggestions and improvements to strengthen the country's national identity and its future. Current events in Ukraine require strong pro-child family policy when existing state family policy has been ineffective in helping to build and support national strength.

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