

# «UNIVERSAL SOLDIER» or Education as the Weapon of Russia In the Occupied South of Ukraine



Monitoring report for April - June 2024

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# ABBREVIATIONS

**TOT** – temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

**RF** – Russian Federation.

**SMO** – “special military operation”, a term used in Russia to describe a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

**DOSAAF** – Voluntary Society for the Support of the Army, Aviation and Navy, broadly used as the transliteration of the Russian abbreviation ДООАФ

**UAVs** – unmanned aerial vehicles

**DPR** – the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic, i.e. the territory of the Donetsk region temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

**LPR** – the so-called Luhansk People’s Republic, i.e. the territory of the Luhansk region temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.



# INTRODUCTION

Having full control over the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to strengthen its influence on the minds of Ukrainian children and youth who remain under occupation. For this purpose, a whole network of tools has been launched to destroy Ukrainian identity, militarize and fully assimilate the population of the occupied territories and make children want to support the armed forces of the Russian Federation, including voluntary enlistment in the RF army upon reaching the appropriate age. This policy is implemented through various programs/activities/contests/events carried out by the RF and the occupation authorities under its control with the participation of youth movements and organizations, which are scaling up and rapidly expanding their activities to all the TOT. Military and propaganda activities are increasingly being incorporated into the educational process recreation of children. Russian holidays, memorial days and events are also used to conduct this type of activities. Between April and June 2024, the monitors recorded that Ukrainian children and youth from the TOT were engaged in military and propaganda events dedicated to the holidays “9 May” (“Victory Day”), “Day of Russia”, “The Last School Bell”, as well as the start of summer camps, the new season of the programmes “University Sessions” and the “Cultural Map 4+85”, etc.

The actions recorded during the monitoring period, which the RF is committing in the TOT directly or through the occupation authorities under its control, constitute the violations:

- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Education shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups;
- Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which also addresses the issue of education;
- Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law;
- Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that the education of the child shall be directed to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;



- Articles 38 and 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which regulate the protection of children in time of war;
- Article 50 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), which prohibits the Occupying Power, inter alia, from enlisting children in formations or organizations subordinate to it;
- Article 51 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), which provides that the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. No pressure or propaganda which aims at securing voluntary enlistment is permitted.

## METHODOLOGY

This monitoring report covers the period from 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Areas of research: destruction of Ukrainian identity, militarisation of children in the occupied territories, involvement of children in actions aimed at supporting Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, assimilation of the population of the occupied territories, destruction of the Ukrainian education system.

Geography: temporarily occupied territories of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The monitoring report is based on information gained from:

- state authorities of Ukraine;
- reports of civil society organisations;
- open sources of the temporarily occupied territories, namely:
  - information posted on the official websites and official pages in social networks (including VKontakte) of the so-called “Ministry/department/division of education of the temporarily occupied territory”;
  - official statistical data of the Russian Federation;
  - information posted on the websites of secondary schools in the temporarily occupied territories;



- publications of local media in the temporarily occupied parts of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
- information published in social media

## LIMITATIONS

The monitoring report does not cover the territory of the occupied Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

For this study, the authors used only sources available to them. Work with sources and analysis of information lasted until 5 July 2024. Information and messages that could not be verified as of the date of publication of this monitoring report were not included in it.

To prepare this monitoring report, the authors used data found on the social network VKontakte. This is due to the fact that after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, most of the information from the occupation authorities was published on this social network. Thus, it is now virtually the only possible source to obtain the necessary information. The use of Russian sources and sources from the temporarily occupied territories is based on the same considerations.

The information presented in this report is intended to document the crimes of the Russian Federation and to combat the disinformation it spreads.



# I. MILITARIZATION

## 1. EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

The entire educational process carried out by the Russian authorities in the TOT includes regular activities of so-called “patriotic” education, which are actually aimed at militarizing children. The children are given theoretical lectures and weekly lessons “Conversations about important things”, as well as practical classes on making trench candles, camouflage nets, writing letters and collecting parcels for the Russian military, meeting with members of the so-called SMO, representatives of the Russian security forces, and visiting thematic exhibitions and museums. Such activities are held both during school hours and as additional extracurricular activities.

During the monitoring period, the following activities were conducted:

### TOT of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol



- The head of the local branch of the DOSAAF, Artamonov O.O., met with pupils of School No. 9 (headmaster Gulnora Rizvanova) of the TOT of Kerch to speak on the topic: **“Defence of the Motherland is a sacred duty of every citizen, DOSAAF is a forge of personnel for the Armed Forces of the**





**Russian Federation”.** During the meeting, he told the children about “future service in the Russian Army, the possibility of obtaining military specialities on the basis of the DOSAAF”.<sup>1</sup>

- An interactive lesson for schoolchildren at Yalta Secondary School No. 4 (headmaster Tatyana Shabakova) was conducted by representatives of the DOSAAF. As a result organizers noted that “children learn about patriotism and military sports, and become the guardians of the history of our Motherland not in words but in deeds.”<sup>2</sup>



- The occupation authorities do not neglect to introduce military-oriented activities into the educational process, even for preschoolers. Thus, the children of the kindergarten “Solnyshko” (Russian for “Sun”)<sup>3</sup> (director Natalia Lysenko) located in the village Golubynka were visited by a bus-museum “Touching the feat”, where they were allowed to “hold modern weapons in hands”.<sup>4</sup>



1 [https://vk.com/wall-196982714\\_1130](https://vk.com/wall-196982714_1130), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/g8ZIT>

2 [https://vk.com/wall31591420\\_2611](https://vk.com/wall31591420_2611), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/hATGA>

3 Hereinafter, the Russian names of movements, events, programmes, slogans, etc. are translated. The names of kindergartens, camps and military games are transliterated, and the English translation is given in brackets where appropriate.

4 [https://vk.com/wall-214910068\\_201323](https://vk.com/wall-214910068_201323), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/wDuRZ>



**All the meetings are actually aimed at forming a positive attitude towards the aggressor country among children, preparing them to be ready to defend it with arms, and campaigning for children to join the Russian armed forces when they reach the appropriate age.**

- In the classroom of the Centre for Military-Patriotic and Sports Education of the Regional Department of the Russian DOSAAF in Yalta, an event dedicated to the so-called **'Day of Remembrance of the SMO participant, war correspondent and volunteer Vladlen Tatarsky'** was held for the pupils of Yalta Secondary School-Lyceum No. 9 (headmaster Yuri Solovey), Yalta Secondary School No. 8 (headmaster Natalia Totskaya), as well as cadets of the defence organisation and members of the movement "Youth Army". At this event, the children were addressed by the members of the Yalta local branch of the "United Russia" party, who spoke about the so-called SMO, Tatarsky's participation in it, and the importance of using UAVs. **Such a presentation of information is in fact glorification of a serviceman who took part in the war against Ukraine, as well as encouraging children to learn to fly UAVs.**<sup>5</sup>





- A masterclass on making camouflage nets and trench candles was held for the children of the Stanytsia Shcholinska Cossack Society, after which they joined in the production of camouflage nets for Russian military personnel.<sup>6</sup>
- Pupils of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade of the School No. 13 in Kerch (headmaster Natalia Melshinkova), with the support of their parents, collected parcels and wrote letters for the military personnel involved in the war against Ukraine. The boxes contained inscriptions with the Z and V symbols used by Russian propaganda to spread information about the so-called SMO.<sup>7</sup>



6 [https://vk.com/wall-193303062\\_10365](https://vk.com/wall-193303062_10365), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/KFDC4>

7 [https://vk.com/wall-214910068\\_201343](https://vk.com/wall-214910068_201343), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/YfqYc>



In addition to these activities, since April, children have been involved in the so-called “watchkeeping”, which involves standing guard at memorials and monuments dedicated to World War II. When keeping watch, children are dressed in military uniforms or uniforms of the military organisation “Youth Army”, and hold weapons.<sup>8 9 10</sup>

## TOT of the Kherson region

- At Syvash secondary school (headmaster Svitlana Tsyp), police officers told children about their service in the Russian law enforcement agencies and the specifics of their profession.<sup>11</sup> Similar meetings with schoolchildren were held by representatives of the Investigative Committee of the RF,<sup>12</sup> who conducted a lesson entitled “A Path to the World of Profession”,<sup>13</sup> which is **de facto a promotion of law enforcement agencies and agitation for joining them.**



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8 [https://vk.com/wall-217363296\\_2751](https://vk.com/wall-217363296_2751), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/1VNdp>  
9 [https://vk.com/wall-206944878\\_3337](https://vk.com/wall-206944878_3337), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/wGTZs>  
10 [https://vk.com/wall-202830610\\_5135](https://vk.com/wall-202830610_5135), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/WEsnz>  
11 [https://vk.com/minobr\\_kherson?w=wall-145460148\\_175541](https://vk.com/minobr_kherson?w=wall-145460148_175541), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/gmFph>  
12 [https://vk.com/minobr\\_kherson?w=wall-216598493\\_283](https://vk.com/minobr_kherson?w=wall-216598493_283), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/4d3ET>  
13 [https://vk.com/wall-216598493\\_320](https://vk.com/wall-216598493_320), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/kstUO>



The Russian military are also invited to participate in celebrations at educational institutions. Thus, at the Schastlivtsevo school of the Genichesk municipal district (headmaster Lilia Kosova), representatives of the Federal Service of the National Guard Troops of the RF attended the event dedicated to the “Day of liberation of Arabatska Strilka from the Nazi invaders”.<sup>14</sup>

## TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region

- At the Berdiansk Machine-Building College (headmaster Sergey Gerekliov), a representative of the Federal Service of the National Guard Troops of the RF delivered a “lesson in courage” to the pupils. During the lesson, the military man discussed with children “the importance of generational continuity and the formation of pride in young people for their country”.<sup>15</sup>



14 [https://vk.com/minobr\\_kherson?w=wall-215245628\\_1636](https://vk.com/minobr_kherson?w=wall-215245628_1636), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/RXjEJ>

15 [https://vk.com/minoinzo?w=wall-217630752\\_2732](https://vk.com/minoinzo?w=wall-217630752_2732), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/KDfcW>



- The Museum “Heroic Deed” in Berdiansk hosted a lecture for schoolchildren dedicated to the Day of the Russian Air Defence Forces.<sup>16</sup>
- On the basis of the school № 24 in Melitopol (headmaster Mikhail Shchukin), the so-called senior officer of the military commandant’s office of the Zaporizhzhia region, Major A. Eyubov, conducted a medical training session for the school’s unit of the Youth Army. The serviceman told the children how to behave in case of injuries to the neck, stomach and shoulder<sup>17</sup> and taught them drill training.<sup>18</sup>



16 [https://vk.com/mincultoz?w=wall-214856098\\_17981](https://vk.com/mincultoz?w=wall-214856098_17981), archive <https://archive.ph/CJTuT>

17 <https://t.me/yunarmeezzo/1161>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/t2Yz9>

18 <https://t.me/yunarmeezzo/1465>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/u0lb7>



## 2. ACTIVITIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

After the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer holidays, the occupation authorities continue exercising propaganda influence by organizing various types of military activities for children. Sometimes such events are disguised as “summer recreation”, but in the end, the RF does not hide its goal, conducting overt military training for children and youth from the TOT

During the monitoring period, the following activities were conducted

### TOT of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

- Children attending a school camp during the summer holidays were involved in collecting parcels for the participants of the so-called SMO. According to the authors of the publication, the parcels will soon be sent to the Kherson region.<sup>19</sup>



### TOT of the Kherson region

- On the basis of the Genichesk Construction College (headmaster Mykola Koltsov), the first military field training and the course on the basics of medical tactical training and military training from the “VOIN” Centre were held for 70 pupils.<sup>20</sup>

Children from the TOT of the Kherson region (as well as from the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions) were taken to the territory of the Russian Federation in Volgograd for a 21-day camp shift “Time of Heroes” of the Centre “VOIN” (Russian for “Warrior”) under the pretext of “summer recreation”. The purpose of the Centre “VOIN” is to raise **a new generation of patriots and defenders of Russia**, and one of the organisation’s priorities is **to prepare young people for military service in the Russian Armed Forces**.<sup>21</sup> For more information about the activities of the Centre “VOIN”, please follow the [link](#).

19 [https://vk.com/wall-211981364\\_5749](https://vk.com/wall-211981364_5749), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/gRmLK>

20 [https://dzen.ru/a/Zksnl\\_3bwX6gtiVt](https://dzen.ru/a/Zksnl_3bwX6gtiVt), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/YK12o>

21 <https://dnr.crvsp.ru/news/programmy-tsentra-vojn-v-2024-godu-ohvatjat-okolo-30-tysjach-chelovek>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/RERWH>



## TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region

- In Melitopol, servicemen of the Federal Service of the National Guard Troops of the RF, together with the city administration, organised “Holidays with the Russian Guard” for pupils of the specialised class and Youth Army cadets. During the event, the children were told about the history and tasks of the Russian Guard unit, and were given the opportunity to try on their equipment and armour. According to the so-called







representative of the Russian Guard unit of the Zaporizhzhia region, “a whole range of meetings with children is planned in the region as part of the all-Russian project “Holidays with the Russian Guard”.<sup>22</sup>



- A regional stage of the All-Russian military and patriotic game «Zarnitsa 2.0» (Russian for “Summer Lightning”) was held at the branch of the International Children’s Centre “Artek” in Berdiansk (note: the game includes drill, “ready for work and defence” standards, an obstacle course and is aimed at preparing young people for military service). There were 70 participants from the “Movement of the First” and the youth Army. The opening of Zarnitsa 2.0 was attended by Director of the International Children’s Centre “Artek” Kostiantyn Fedorenko, Acting Vice-Governor of Zaporizhzhia region Anton Tytskyi, Acting Minister of Youth Policy Yegor Logunov, Acting Head of the Berdiansk Municipal District Oleksandr Saulenko and Acting Chief of Staff of the Regional Branch of the All-Russian military movement “Youth Army” of the Zaporizhzhia region Fidail Bikbulatov.<sup>23</sup>



22 <https://t.me/yunarmeetzzo/1563>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/6ddBL>

23 <https://t.me/yunarmeetzzo/1657>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/LW5YK>





## II. INDOCTRINATION

### 1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

The Russian authorities actively use any excuse to conduct militaristic and Russification activities among children and youth in the TOT. One of these occasions is Russian public holidays. During the monitoring period, the most large-scale actions and events were dedicated to the holidays “9 May” (“Victory Day”) and “Day of Russia”.

#### “9 May” (“Victory Day”)

The conduct of the following actions/contests was recorded on the TOT: “St George’s Ribbon”, “Windows of Victory”, “Letter to a Soldier”, “Talisman of Goodness”, “Letters from the Front”, “Immortal Regiment”, “Descendants of Victory”, “Dictation of Victory”, “Memory Watch”, “Spring of Victory”, “Gardens of Victory”, “Chronicle of Hearts”, “I Remember! I am proud!”. Children from preschool age to young adults were involved in these events.

#### TOT of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

- Preschoolers from 30 kindergartens in Sevastopol took part in the parade and song contest “Spring of Victory”. During the competition, the children **were dressed in different uniforms of military specialities** and competed in marching in formation, singing songs and following commands from the commander.<sup>24</sup>





- Pupils, teachers and parents of Livadia School (headmaster Olena Semeniuk) took part in the International Patriotic Historical and Educational Campaign “Dictation of Victory”, which, according to the organisers, was held **to educate young people historically and patriotically**.<sup>25</sup>

## TOT of the Kherson region

- Children from early childhood to graduates of the kindergarten “Skazka” (Russian for “Fairytale”) in Genichesk (headmaster Irina Pyslar) took part in a “parade” **where each group represented a separate type of troops: infantrymen, sailors, pilots (children were dressed in the appropriate uniform)**. According to the authors of the publication, “each preschooler demonstrated excellent drill skills”.<sup>26</sup>



- The “St George’s Ribbon” campaign, dedicated to 9 May, has been launched in all general education organisations of the Oleshki municipal district. The publication states that “the ‘St George’s Ribbon’ campaign is becoming a relay race of readiness to defend our land, our people, our language, our name”.<sup>27</sup>

25 [https://vk.com/wall-195769910\\_1141](https://vk.com/wall-195769910_1141), archive <https://archive.ph/IJY6T>

26 [https://vk.com/wall-215245628\\_1748](https://vk.com/wall-215245628_1748), archive <https://archive.ph/V4DTe>

27 [https://vk.com/minobr\\_kherson?w=wall-215245628\\_1683](https://vk.com/minobr_kherson?w=wall-215245628_1683), archive <https://archive.ph/2RBcs>



- During the “Immortal Regiment” event at the Genichesk Sanatorium Boarding School (headmaster Nina Zelenska), children wore Soviet-era military uniforms and carried flags of Russia and the USSR, as well as communist symbols.<sup>28</sup>



## TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region

- Kindergartens No. 1 “Topolyok” (Russian for “Small Poplar”) in the town of Molochansk, Tokmak district (headmaster Tatyana Titova)<sup>29</sup> and No. 7 “Kalinka” (Russian for “Small Viburnum”) in the town of Tokmak (headmaster Lyudmila Basarab) held a patriotic event “Windows of Victory”, during which they placed St George’s ribbons and other symbols on the windows.<sup>30</sup>
- **Children with disabilities** of the Terpenevsk Special (Correctional) Boarding School in the town of Melitopol (headmaster Putyanov Petro) were involved in

28 <https://t.me/depobrherson/6303>, archive <https://archive.ph/vuLbH>

29 <https://t.me/obrzp/21780>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/ogJqQ>

30 <https://t.me/obrzp/21789>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/ZnkXp>



the VIII regional recitation contest “My Voice Sounds for Victory”, during which they recited Russian poems. According to the organisers, **“the competition was organised with the aim of fostering a sense of pride in our Motherland and respect for the memory of military events and those who died for the freedom of our Motherland”** (note: the Motherland refers to Russia).<sup>31</sup>

- In Melitopol, a parade was held with the participation of the cadets of the Federal Service of the National Guard Troops of the RF, the Youth Army, the volunteer youth squad and the so-called military police of Zaporizhzhia region.<sup>32</sup>
- In Berdiansk and Melitopol, a military-patriotic game for children, Zarnitsa 2.0, was held, with children learning “basic military skills”.<sup>33</sup>

### “Day of Russia”

During the monitoring period, the events dedicated to the “Day of Russia” included:

#### TOT of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

- At the Nikitsky Cultural Centre branch No. 2, a master class “Serve Russia!” was held for primary school children from Yalta Secondary School No. 6 (headmaster Elena Gatsko). During the event, the children **were told about the equipment of a Russian soldier, explained why it is necessary to defend the Motherland, and tried to put on a bulletproof vest and throw a grenade.**<sup>34</sup>



31 [https://vk.com/minoinzo?w=wall-217630752\\_2715](https://vk.com/minoinzo?w=wall-217630752_2715), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/44Gt4>

32 [https://vk.com/id339023676?w=wall-214856098\\_18274](https://vk.com/id339023676?w=wall-214856098_18274), archive <https://archive.ph/faG5j>

33 <https://t.me/obrzp/21690>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/A0rLF>

34 [https://vk.com/wall-9452628\\_7099](https://vk.com/wall-9452628_7099), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/rvl36>



- In Sevastopol, the final of the city competition for the best dance flash mob among the city's pre-schools was held, during which children wore Russian national costumes and outfits with Russian symbols.<sup>35</sup>

### TOT of the Kherson region

- All pre-schools in the so-called Oleshki municipal district held events dedicated to the "Day of Russia". In the photo, children are holding Russian flags and other Russian symbols.<sup>36</sup>



35 [https://vk.com/wall-177557250\\_26278](https://vk.com/wall-177557250_26278), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/rgxdC>

36 [https://vk.com/wall-215245628\\_1869](https://vk.com/wall-215245628_1869), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/vfOMY>



- On the eve of “Day of Russia”, activists of the youth movements “Young South” (known as YugMolodj), “Movement of the First”, “Youth Army” and “Volunteers of Victory” wrote letters to soldiers participating in the war against Ukraine, thanking them for their “courage and heroism and wishing them a speedy victory”.<sup>37</sup>

## TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region

- The kindergarten № 46 “Venocek” (Russian for “Wreath”) in Melitopol (headmaster Irina Dubanova) held events called **“Russia is our home”**, during which children **were told about Russia as their native country and encouraged to feel love for their native land and Motherland** (note: Russia). The children took part in a quiz called **“We live in Russia”** and were told about “our flag”. **The purpose of using such names is to impose feelings of belonging to Russia on children.**<sup>38</sup>
- In Melitopol, activists of the movement “Young South” held an event called “Russia in Everyone’s Heart”, where they painted the flag of the Russian Federation on children’s faces “as a symbol of love for the Motherland”.<sup>39</sup>



37 [https://t.me/molodezh\\_genichesk/1709\\_archive](https://t.me/molodezh_genichesk/1709_archive) <https://archive.ph/wip/gpt3l>

38 [https://vk.com/wall-217630752\\_2984\\_archive](https://vk.com/wall-217630752_2984_archive) <https://archive.ph/wip/Vz44l>

39 [https://vk.com/wall-216422329\\_6691\\_archive](https://vk.com/wall-216422329_6691_archive) <https://archive.ph/wip/dWcZ4>





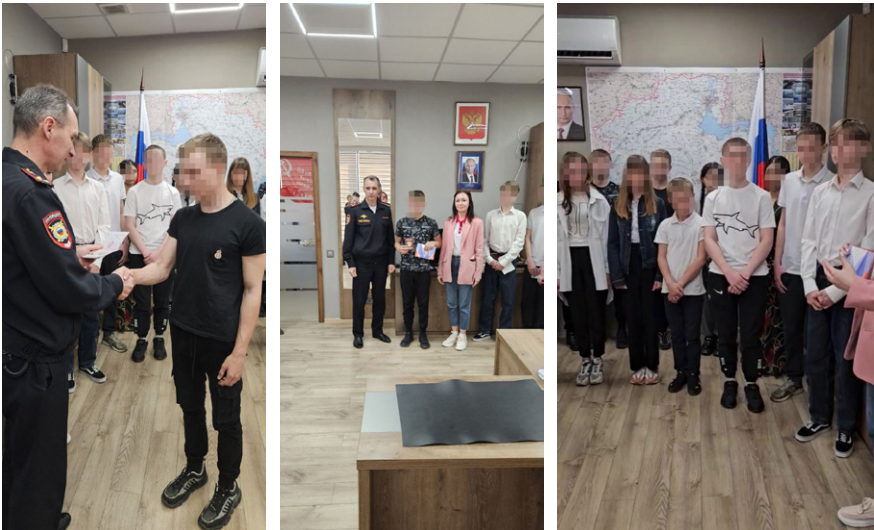
In addition to these actions and events, the action “We are citizens of Russia” was held in all the TOT (in Zaporizhzhia<sup>40 41</sup> and Kherson regions,<sup>42 43</sup> as well as in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea)<sup>44</sup> where public presentations of Russian passports to Ukrainian children took place. These “solemn passport presentations” were timed to coincide with the “Day of Russia” and “Day of Cosmonautics” and were attended by high-ranking officials of the occupation authorities and representatives of youth movements, including the “Movement of the First”, who co-organised these events.



- 40 [https://vk.com/wall-216422329\\_6686](https://vk.com/wall-216422329_6686), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/J8exW>  
 41 [https://vk.com/mypervie\\_zp?w=wall-218359825\\_650&z=photo-218359825\\_457240262%2Fwall-218359825\\_650](https://vk.com/mypervie_zp?w=wall-218359825_650&z=photo-218359825_457240262%2Fwall-218359825_650), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/t7vJ6>  
 42 [https://t.me/molodezh\\_genichesk/1711](https://t.me/molodezh_genichesk/1711), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/593Xf>  
 43 [https://t.me/tavria\\_kherson/27606](https://t.me/tavria_kherson/27606), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/veH18>  
 44 [https://vk.com/wall-153744445\\_32665](https://vk.com/wall-153744445_32665), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/IFJBM>



Moreover, the Russian occupation authorities, contrary to the fundamental principles of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the requirements of Article 2 of the UN Charter and the Declaration on Principles of International Law, are forcibly issuing passports to Ukrainian children deprived of parental care who remain under occupation. For example, 14-year-old pupils of the Melitopol Regional Centre for Social and Psychological Rehabilitation were presented Russian passports on the Day of Cosmonautics. According to the organisers, "the presentation of a Russian passport is an important event **that helps a teenager to realise their connection with the country, its cultural and historical heritage**, to feel part of a great nation united by common values and ideals" (note: this refers to Russia).<sup>45</sup>





## 2. RUSSIAN PROGRAMMES

In order to destroy the Ukrainian identity, the RF is implementing educational programmes and tools in the TOT, including the programmes “University Sessions” and “Cultural Map 4+85”.

“**University Sessions**” is a programme for children aged 12-17 from the TOT, which began on 6 June 2022 and is held on the campuses of Russian universities with the aim of forming a Russian identity in children, and de facto Russifying Ukrainian children, erasing Ukrainian consciousness and encouraging them to move from the occupied territories to study and further reside in the RF. For more details on this programme, see the [Analytical Report](#).

During the monitoring period, the occupation authorities of the RF announced the start of a new season of “University Sessions” for children from the TOT who are already being taken to the territory of the RF:

### TOT of the Kherson region

- 47 children from Kalanchak and Skadovsk were taken to Moscow to take part in the “University Sessions” from 18 to 28 June, which are being held at the State Institute of Management.<sup>46</sup> According to the organisers, the programme “University Sessions” enables schoolchildren to choose their future profession and place of further study.<sup>47</sup>



<sup>46</sup> [https://vk.com/wall-215245628\\_1882](https://vk.com/wall-215245628_1882), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/gNeqT>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.mk-herson.ru/social/2024/06/17/podrostki-iz-khersonskoy-oblasti-poekhali-na-universitetskie-smeny-v-moskvu.html>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/7xiOZ>



During this trip, the children visited, among other things, the exhibition “Russia”, events with Russian military personnel, excursions to Moscow City, Arbat and Red Square, master classes on the laws of the Russian language, the Victory Museum, and repeatedly met with psychologists.<sup>48</sup>

## TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region

- Schoolchildren from the Zaporizhzhia region stayed at the Elbrus Educational and Research Complex of KBSU for 10 days,<sup>49</sup> during which they “learned about the history of Russia and the culture of its peoples”.<sup>50</sup>
- 30 schoolchildren were taken to the **Tabasaran region of Dagestan as part of the “University Sessions” project. For 10 days, the children got to know the culture and historic sights of the region of Russia.**<sup>51</sup>

“**Cultural Map 4+85**” is a programme of cultural and educational routes developed by the Ministry of Culture of the RF specifically for schoolchildren in the DPR, LPR, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions with the aim of their social integration into Russian society, as well as preserving Russia’s historical heritage.<sup>52</sup> The actual goal of this programme is also aimed at Russification of Ukrainian children, erasing their Ukrainian consciousness and instilling the perception of Russian culture as “theirs”.

During the monitoring period, children were taken from the TOT of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to participate in the programme “Cultural Map 4+85”:

- 45 schoolchildren travelled to Tula in the RF, where, after a sightseeing bus tour of historical sites, they visited the interactive exhibition “My Address is Always Tula”.<sup>53 54</sup>

48 <https://t.me/s/smenaguu>, archive <https://archive.ph/yGwHH>

49 [https://vk.com/wall-217630752\\_3031](https://vk.com/wall-217630752_3031), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/Kg3dr>

50 <https://herson.bezformata.com/listnews/universitetskie-smeni-v-kabardino/131490985/>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/kwduo>

51 <https://zoritabasarana.ru/rubriki/news/news/obshchestvo/item/shkolniki-iz-zaporozhskoj-oblasti-znakomyatsya-s-kulturoj-tabasarana/>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/yYZQt>

52 <https://dzen.ru/a/ZJ1A5NQObSZ5b17E>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/yuixP>

53 [https://vk.com/wall-216986577\\_8995](https://vk.com/wall-216986577_8995), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/nDd2x>

54 <https://herson.bezformata.com/listnews/ramkah-programmi-kulturnaya-karta/132665042/>, archive <https://archive.ph/jnW15>



- 47 schoolchildren travelled to Moscow, where, among other things, they will get acquainted with regional expositions at the exhibition “Russia” at VDNG .<sup>55</sup>





### 3. "SUMMER HEALTH RECREATION CAMPAIGN"

On 1 June, the RF officially launched a summer health recreation campaign, which is actively used to engage children in propaganda, russification and militarisation activities. The occupation authorities of Crimea state that they expect to receive about **190,000** children, of whom **48,000** are planned to be brought from other regions of the RF, including the TOT of Ukraine, which Russia disguises as "new territories".<sup>56</sup>

As of the end of June, the occupation authorities of the Zaporizhzhia region reported that **2,124** children had been "rehabilitated", including 1,196 in camps in Russia and the TOT of Crimea, including 122 children in the camps "Artek", "Alye Parusa" (Russian for "Scarlet Sails"), "Smena" (Russian for "Shift"), "Orlyonok" (Russian for "Eaglet") and "Krasnaya Gvozdika" (Russian for "Red Carnation").<sup>57</sup>

Representatives of the occupation authorities of the Kherson region report that in June, **700 schoolchildren** were sent to children's camps in Crimea, Adygria, Volga, and the Ocean camp in Vladivostok.<sup>58</sup> It is planned to send more than 500 children to Adygea, where the first group of children from the TOT of Genichesk has already gone to the camp "Lan" (Russian for "Doe").<sup>59</sup>

In most of the camps, so-called military-patriotic themed shifts are planned and have already begun. They are organised with the assistance of the military organisation "Youth Army", as well as Russian military personnel, including the Russian Navy.

Examples of the so-called recreation of Ukrainian children from the TOT include:

- In the park of children's camps "Gorny" (Russian for "Mountainous", is part of "Artek", TOT of the AR of Crimea), an educational and game programme "Russian Yard" was held. The aim of the programme was to introduce children to **"the culture, history and traditions of multinational Russia, to demonstrate the achievements of the Russian people, to build pride in their small homeland and the country as a whole"**.<sup>60</sup>

56 <https://crimea-radio.ru/program/nashi-gosti/kak-v-krimu-organizovan-letniy-otdikh-i/>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/swmsj>

57 [https://vk.com/wall-217630752\\_3011](https://vk.com/wall-217630752_3011), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/48hrj>

58 <https://www.mk-herson.ru/social/2024/06/22/na-otdykh-v-lagerya-otpravili-700-detey-iz-khersonskoy-oblasti.html>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/PtzhK>

59 <https://www.mk-herson.ru/social/2024/06/10/bolee-500-detey-iz-khersonskoy-oblasti-otdokhnut-v-adygee-v-etom-godu.html>, archive <https://archive.ph/wip/gALzM>

60 [https://vk.com/wall-196982714\\_1142](https://vk.com/wall-196982714_1142), archive <https://archive.ph/wip/EyRQ5>



- Children from Sevastopol schools No. 3 and No. 6, who had been accepted into the ranks of the “Movement of the First”, took part in the regional specialised shift “Union of Eaglets of Russia” at the children’s camp “Laspi” (TOT of Crimea). After the solemn ceremony, the children played a **game dedicated to Russian traditions, fairy tales and Russian history**.<sup>61</sup>



- In June, 18 children from the TOT of the Zaporizhzhia region were in the camp “Solnechnaya Osetia” (Russian for “Solar Ossetia”) in North Ossetia (RF), where another 80 children from Chernihiv district of the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region are to be sent in July and August. In his address to the Ukrainian children, the head of Republic North Ossetia-Alania, Sergei Menyailo, said: “...I want our little guests to know that we are always there for them and will do everything to make them feel good in our republic. **They are at home here**”.<sup>62</sup>



