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**Central Authority
for the 1996 Hague Child
Protection Convention**

Via e-mail only

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Federal Office of Justice of the Swiss Confederation as the Central Authority of Switzerland for the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (Child Protection Convention), and would like to inform that taking into account the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine the martial law is set in Ukraine by the Decree of the President of Ukraine of February 24, 2022, confirmed by the Law of Ukraine at the same date.

Since then many orphans and children deprived of parental care were displaced from the territory of constant fighting to the other regions of Ukraine or were evacuated abroad.

According to Article 5 para 1 of the Child Protection Convention the judicial or administrative authorities of the Contracting State of the habitual residence of the child have jurisdiction to take measures directed to the protection of the child's person or property.

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Convention the exercise of parental responsibility is governed by the law of the State of the child's habitual residence.

In this regard, we would like to provide for your information a file with an information of legal representation of the child and a child protection system in Ukraine concerning the care and placement of children-orphans and children deprived of parental care (in English).

СЕД АСКОД

Міністерство юстиції України

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Підписувач Шевченко Катерина Георгіївна

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Taking this occasion, please, also find attached an Open Letter of the Ukrainian Government to the Governments of the States where children citizens of Ukraine are evacuated to in connection with the military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation regarding very crucial issues on protection of the rights of the Ukrainian children during the martial law in Ukraine (in Ukrainian with its translation into English).

We would be grateful for relevant informing of all the Swiss authorities concerned.

Please, be assured, that your kind cooperation will be very appreciated and our Ministry, in its turn, is ready to consider in the matter of urgency and priority any requests in order to secure cross-border protection of children.

Please, be advised that the requests under HCCH 1996 Child Protection Convention should contain all available information that identifies the personality of a child or children as well as accompanied persons and all relevant circumstances.

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Federal Office of Justice of the Swiss Confederation the assurances in its highest consideration.

According to the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On preventing the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus in Ukraine» the quarantine has been prolonged until May 31, 2022, all over Ukraine.

For the period of quarantine, the letters of our Central Authority are performed in e-form and signed with the qualified electronic signature, which by its legal validity is equivalent to the handwritten signature according to the Law of Ukraine «On Electronic Trust Services».

Attachment: the aforementioned in three files.

**Head of the Department
on International Legal Assistance -
Deputy Head of Directorate
for International Law**

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