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**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

4/8/1/1/ap

17 October 2023

Dear David,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on Ukraine on 21 September. During your speech you asked about war crimes, in particular the forced transfer of Ukrainian children and conflict-related sexual violence.

I can reassure you that the UK is fully committed to holding Russia to account for its actions in Ukraine. This has included the UK joining a core group established by Ukraine to shape thinking on how to ensure criminal accountability for Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We will continue to call on Russia to cease forced transfers, allow unhindered, immediate and safe access for humanitarian organisations, and facilitate the safe return of children to Ukraine, in line with Russia's obligations under international law. Those responsible for Russia's forced transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-controlled territories of Ukraine must be held to account and the UK is supporting the investigations of both the Ukrainian authorities and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The arrest warrants issued by the ICC are an important step towards accountability. To this end, the UK has also contributed an additional £1 million to the International Criminal Court to support the most vulnerable witnesses and victims of war crimes, including providing psychological support for victims and witnesses of conflict-related sexual violence.

I would also like to reassure you that, in Ukraine, we are providing personnel from the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Team of Experts to support capacity building amongst prosecutors and the police as well as support to victims, including women and children.

Lord Alton of Liverpool  
House of Lords  
London  
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More broadly, the UK are providing funding to support people in need, including children, in Ukraine and countries hosting refugees in the surrounding region by contributing £20 million of humanitarian funding to UNICEF, £25 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and £15 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to This funding provides practical assistance including psychosocial support, health and education assistance, water and Gender-based violence services. We are also contributing 150,000 euros to the Council of Europe's Ukraine Action Plan.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

*Yours sincerely,  
Annabel Su Hooie*

**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**