

About the Film

The fall of the Soviet Union left Ukraine in a wake of social and political upheaval. The crippled economy and corrupt infrastructure produced little hope. However, a pastor and civic leader from Mariupol, Ukraine, named Gennadiy Mokhnenko, made a name for himself by forcibly abducting homeless drug-addicted kids from streets of his city.

He founded Pilgrim Republic, a children's rehabilitation center and home for former street kids. With Gennadiy's help over the years, things seem to have changed. Mariupol is no longer crawling with homeless kids. Many credit this largely to his efforts at Pilgrim.

European Union inclusion, hopes of continued revitalization seem possible. In the meantime, Gennadiy's center has evolved into a more nebulous institution. **Awards**

Now, as the large majority of

Ukraine leans towards a

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'Crisis in Ukraine'





Children in Ukraine

Resources & Articles UNICEF Children in Ukraine Read→ CNN 'Eastern European street kids facing 'HIV epidemic" Read→

schools and shelters. Family poverty, unemployment,

state-run children's

institutions such as

orphanages, boarding

Of Ukraine's eight million

children some 96,000 live in

alcoholism and drug use are the main reasons for children being abandoned. Thousands of children also choose to run away from violence in their homes. They find refuge on the streets where they run the risk of contracting tuberculosis and HIV through injecting drugs. Many children leave home because they have been left to fend for themselves while their parents have migrated abroad to find work. – UNICEF Multimedia Photo Essay, David Gillanders 'The Neglected, street children of Ukraine' Watch→

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