



**LIFE ON THE MARGINS**  
Some of the children  
abandoned by their families

## Ukraine's Forgotten Children 9.00pm **BBC4**

**DOCUMENTARY OF THE WEEK** Ukraine has just spent £9 billion preparing for Euro 2012, yet there are an estimated 80,000 "social orphans" existing in underfunded state-run institutions. The system blithely labels them feeble-minded even when some could live independently, while the chronically sick children are stuck in institutions with no professional medical staff.

Kate Blewett (*The Dying Rooms, Bulgaria's Abandoned*

*Children*) filmed for six months in a shabby home where the despairing staff are doing their best, despite overwhelming problems. She also meets former inmates who ended up in psychiatric institutions where they were abused and used as slave labour but who are now challenging their "incapacitated" categorisation in the courts. Blewett never lards her documentaries with sentimentalism. She just lets the harrowing facts speak for themselves. **JR**