



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 7, 2024

Madam Chair, thank you for the inspired initiative to invite Special Representative Gamba to the Council. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you, Special Representative Gamba. The United States appreciates your tireless efforts to protect children in the OSCE region.

We are particularly grateful for your work with Ukraine to safeguard the well-being of its children during Russia's full-scale invasion. This includes Ukraine's signing of the joint prevention plan with the UN in 2023.

We join you in expressing profound horror at the violations and abuses committed by Russia's forces against Ukraine's children. Russia has committed every one of the six grave violations identified within your mandate.

Ukraine estimates Russia's forces have forcibly transferred or deported nearly 20,000 children, and there is compelling evidence that Russia's authorities have altered the identities and citizenships of many of these children in an apparent effort to Russify them. This is a stark indication of Russia's contravention of international law that all participating States have pledged to uphold.

Russia's continuous strikes have hit numerous medical and educational facilities. Russia's July 8 strike that hit Ukraine's largest children's hospital left four children dead and seven injured.

Russia has failed to address mounting evidence of war crimes on a massive scale committed by members of its forces and proxies, who act with impunity in Ukraine.

Russia bears full responsibility for this conflict and the immense suffering it has caused. It will be held to account. Only Russia's immediate withdrawal from Ukraine's sovereign territory will protect Ukraine's children from further harm.

###