



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
ON RUSSIA'S MISSILE ATTACK ON UKRAINE, INCLUDING ON
OKHMATDYT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN KYIV ON 8 JULY 2024
1481st (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 July 2024

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank you for swiftly convening this Special Meeting of the PC, and I would like to remind the Council, in refutation of the claim made at the opening of the meeting by the Russian delegation, of why we hold Special PCs. I refer to Chapter II, Section A, paragraph 6 of the Rules of Procedure: "The PC may also convene special PC meetings in order to discuss matters of non-compliance with OSCE commitments and to decide on appropriate courses of action." We are meeting today, Madam Chair, to discuss a shockingly flagrant matter of non-compliance with OSCE commitments.

Madam Chair,

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ukrainian people and delegation for the tragic loss of at least 38 people, and more than 190 reported injured, due to the recent Russian bombings in civilian areas across Ukraine. Our hearts are with the families and loved ones of the victims, and in particular, children who in seeking medical attention, had the horrors of Russia's war inflicted upon them.

We wish all injured Ukrainians a speedy recovery.

In a call with President Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Trudeau expressed his horror at the Russian missiles that struck Ukraine yesterday morning. He assured Ukraine we are with them all the way. We stand in solidarity with Ukrainians as they defend their freedom, land, and cultural heritage.

We also appreciate Minister Borg's recent public message condemning the attack.

Madam Chair,

Yesterday, Russia's attacks struck multiple cities across Ukraine, including Kyiv, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Sloviansk, and Kramatorsk, resulting in at least 20 fatalities. This number tragically continues to rise as the situation evolves.

Among the grievously affected locations is the Okhmatdyt, the biggest children's hospital in Ukraine, where critically ill children – pediatric cancer patients among them – were undergoing treatment. The same day, a maternity hospital in Kyiv was hit leaving at least 7 people dead.

Pregnant women. Newborns. Paediatric cancer patients. Hospitals. Schools. Kindergartens. Libraries. These are examples of civilians and civilian infrastructure that has been bombed by Russia.

Russia's attacks have confined an entire generation of children to basements and bomb shelters for daily activities like schooling. Russia has forcibly transferred and deported thousands away from their parents and guardians in Ukraine, ostensibly to protect children from the very acts that Russia itself is perpetrating.

There is no justification for Russia's horrifying actions.

These recent assaults are nothing short of barbaric, wicked and indefensible. They are a reminder why a world without laws, rules, and norms, as Russia wishes it, is unacceptable, and why we must act to preserve our current order.

It is not possible to bomb children receiving cancer treatment while simultaneously claiming to want peace.

Russia's relentless war of aggression demonstrates a shocking disregard for human life. While Russia denies targeting civilians or civilian infrastructure, its claims ring hollow in the face of repeated and devastating attacks on both. The International Criminal Court has already issued arrest warrants for four senior Russian officials for war crimes.

Madam Chair,

We condemn these heinous attacks in the strongest possible terms and call for an immediate halt to Russia's illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

We reject Russia's deceptive narratives and false equivalencies.

We stand firm in our commitment to accountability. The world is witnessing these atrocities, and we will support every effort to ensure justice for Ukrainians.

Our unwavering support remains with Ukraine in its rightful and legitimate defence against Russia's aggression.

Glory to Ukraine, now and always.