



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
in response to the reports by the Personal Representatives of the OSCE  
Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1455<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,

07 December 2023

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We welcome the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Dr. Regina Polak and Rabbi Andrew Baker back to the Permanent Council and thank them for their presentations.

The Delegation of Ukraine sincerely appreciates the priority attention the Personal Representatives devoted, within their respective mandates, to addressing the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination in the course of russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Ukraine strongly believes that tolerance and non-discrimination is one of the underpinning elements of any truly democratic and sustainable society.

The harsh reality of the present, which Ukraine and the world are facing amidst russia's war of aggression, serves as a sound testimony to the fact that the humankind will never achieve sustainable and peaceful future without learning the lessons from the past tragic events, without working on mistakes, without strong reforms and fundamental changes in people's minds.

In this context we sincerely appreciate the support of 42 OSCE participating States and the EU Delegation, who aligned with the Ukraine-initiated Joint Statement "On the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932 -1933" at the MC meeting in Skopje last week.

As today, on the one hand, the kremlin is again attempting to subjugate the people of Ukraine by force, and on the other hand, there are ongoing attempts by the russian federation to glorify Stalinism and deny the Holodomor and other atrocities, it is critically important to educate in the OSCE participating States on the Holodomor in Ukraine and to honor the memory of the victims. Raising public awareness of the horrific tragedies of our common past promotes the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, tolerance, non-discrimination, and accountability.

As distinguished Dr. Regina Polak rightly pointed in her report, russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, with the devastating consequences for the millions of Ukrainians, and its negative impact on social cohesion and regional security across the OSCE area, remains the biggest challenge to tolerance and non-discrimination.

We also fully echo your concern that "the largest war in Europe since World War II is described by the Christian-Orthodox Patriarch Kirill as a spiritual-metaphysical one and thus legitimized in Christian terms."

It is all the more beyond comprehension, as full disregard to the international humanitarian law by the Russian military resulted in the destruction and looting of almost 500 religious sites in Ukraine, including churches, mosques, synagogues, educational and administrative buildings of religious communities. Despite all religions and denominations are affected, the majority of the religious sites damaged by the aggressor state are Christian. There are documented cases of seizure of religious buildings in Ukraine by Russian armed forces and their further use as Russian military bases to conceal the firing positions of Russian troops, and even as torture chambers.

**Distinguished Personal Representatives,**

Russia's war is a genocidal war.

Mass atrocities were committed by Russian armed forces in many places in Ukraine, including summary execution, murder, torture and rape of civilians.

Civilian population and critical infrastructure of Ukraine are under constant Russian missile, drone and artillery strikes causing enormous casualties and destruction.

Thousands of Ukrainian children were forcibly transferred or deported to Russia.

Russia resorted to its criminal practice of filtration camps and taking civilian hostages.

Since 2014, the occupied Crimea was turned by Russia into a human rights' grey zone with gross violations and systematic persecution of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians for their views, language, religion or belief. The Mejlis, the representative body of the Crimean Tatar people, remains banned despite the relevant ICJ Order of 2017.

The Russian occupation administration expelled the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church out of the peninsula and continues to systematically persecuting Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the newly invaded and occupied territories of Ukraine, Russia as aggressor state brutally imposes the criminal policy of violent Russification and erases everything Ukrainian.

**Distinguished Personal Representatives,**

The link between Russia's external aggression and the deplorable situation inside that country, marked by rising aggressive nationalism, xenophobia and intolerance, which represent a vital ingredient for pursuit of Russia's expansionist and neo-imperial policy, is of utmost concern.

This leads to Russia's consistent policy of hatred against other nations, religious and vulnerable groups, as well as growing number of the Russian leadership anti-Semitic statements, including the Holocaust distortion.

In 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine officially recognized the Russianism as a new type of totalitarian ideology and practices that underlie the regime formed in the Russian Federation, and is based on the traditions of Russian chauvinism and imperialism, the practices of the communist regime of the USSR and National Socialism (Nazism).

We reiterate our call on the OSCE to address seriously and without delay one of the underlying elements of the Russian aggression which manifests in the campaign of dehumanization of the Ukrainian people brought in Russia to a state level policy, including the incitement to genocide by the Kremlin-controlled media.

We strongly encourage the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination to contribute to this important endeavor by further disclosing and addressing Russia's gross violations of human rights, fundamental freedoms and assaults on human dignity amidst its aggression against Ukraine.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**