

15 March 2011

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Russian Federation Regarding Freedom of Religion and Belief in the United States

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 10, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank my Russian colleague for raising an important topic for us all. In my lifetime, my country has seen terrible racism. Incidents of hate crimes, unfortunately, continue. It is our common responsibility to oppose intolerance and the violence that can stem from it.

As suggested by my Russian colleague, we'll prepare a report on how our government is addressing these concerns, and will present the report to the Human Dimension Committee under the agenda item, "Implementation of Commitments."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.