



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

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
in response to the OSCE Special Representative  
and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human beings  
Mr. Valiant Richey**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1394<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
13-14 October 2022

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes back to the Permanent Council meeting Mr. Valiant Richey, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation.

Ukraine highly appreciates the priority attention and activities of your Office aimed at supporting Ukrainian refugees forced to flee Ukraine due to russia's war of aggression.

russian invasion has forced around one-third (over 14 million) of Ukrainian population from their homes, which makes it the largest human displacement crisis in the world today.

Most of them are women and children who experience enormous psychological and physical stress. Their vulnerable situation puts them at risk for various forms of exploitation and trafficking.

We wish to particularly highlight the importance of the OSCE Special Representative on-line initiative "Be Safe" to provide Ukrainians with critical safety information, minimize the risks of trafficking and get help.

We are grateful to all international partners who provide the necessary assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees. The worrying signs identified by the OSCE Special Representative in the host countries testify to the need to further improve measures to prevent trafficking in persons.

The discussion at the high-level side-event in the framework of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference last week highlighted how topical this issue is.

**Mr. Valiant Richey,**

Thousands of Ukrainians, including children, are forcibly deported from the invaded territories to russia's remote regions. In russia, they face intimidation, poverty and violence. Women and children are subjected to abuse, labour and sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons.

russia forcibly places thousands of Ukrainians to "filtration camps" and widely uses them as hostages. In these "filtration camps" people are violently interrogated and fingerprinted. There are many reports of ill-treatment, torture, intimidation, rape, separation of children from their parents.

With the aim to permanently separate Ukrainian children from their homeland, russia imposed special simplified procedures for adoption and obtaining russian citizenship for deported Ukrainian unaccompanied minors and minors in institutions. In fact, russia resorts to abduction and trafficking in children at the state level.

Under international law, russia's actions can also be qualified as the forcible transfer of children from one human group to another. And this directs us to the UN Convention on the crime of genocide.

We underline the need for the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the ODIHR to pay special attention to the fate of all those forcibly deported Ukrainians, including children, in flagrant breach of international humanitarian law.

Ukraine counts on your assistance in ensuring protection of the rights and freedoms of Ukrainian citizens, who became hostages in the aggressor-state.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**