

**OSCE HDIM 2016****Estonia****Right of Reply****Working Session 11 Tolerance and non-discrimination I****26 September 2016**

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

This is a reply to the statements of Russian Federation, Russian School in Estonia and LICHR.

As concerns Russian language education in Estonia, we would like to stress that authorities invest considerable attention and resources to enhance the quality of Estonian language education in Russian schools. Education reform and transition to Estonian-language education in upper secondary school has not had any negative impact on the quality of education as many Russian-language schools are among the best ranking schools in Estonia. According to recent OECD PISA tests the gap between the Estonian-language and Russian-language schools in Estonia has begun to decrease.

As concerns mentioning of a person in the Estonian Security Service annual review we would like to clarify that the aim of the annual review is to inform public about the potential threats to the national security and it can no way be seen as an instrument to convict or stigmatize anyone. Moreover, article 15 of the Constitution of Estonia guarantees the right of every person whose rights and freedoms have been violated to have recourse to the court. Several people whose name has been published in one of the EISS annual reports have effectively used that right.

As concerns glorification of Nazism and neo-Nazism we would like to stress that the Estonian government has repeatedly condemned all crimes against humanity implemented by totalitarian and authoritarian regimes.

Thank you.