

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1821/21
25 November 2021

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1346th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 November 2021

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Madam Chairperson,

The issues of observing women's rights, eliminating violence, combating discrimination based on sex and achieving gender equality remain Russian priorities at home and on the international stage. The Third Eurasian Women's Forum, held in St. Petersburg in October, is a striking example of the consistent approach to the development of a women's agenda. The event attracted more than 2,500 participants from 111 countries.

Unfortunately, despite systematic work, there is no State in the OSCE area that can claim to have fully addressed all the women's agenda issues, including the eradication of violence. There are many factors preventing this from happening: the effects of centuries of discrimination against indigenous women and girls, the continued existence of the phenomenon of forced sterilization, the increase in racial and national intolerance affecting minority and migrant women, violence by law enforcement bodies in temporary detention centres for migrants, the high demand for "live goods" for sexual exploitation, the lowering of the age of consent for minors, the posting of personal details about girls on abhorrent websites, and much more besides.

A comprehensive approach is needed to eliminate violence against women. Conditions must be created for the empowerment of women. We emphasize that a key prerequisite for their independence is the development of economic potential, personal growth and professional qualifications. It is important to ensure their full participation in all spheres of life – public, political, economic, social and cultural. In that context, we reiterate the futility of pursuing quotas, the effectiveness of which is being increasingly questioned. The most recent occasion was during an event marking the 30th anniversary of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The OSCE has a significant array of commitments of various kinds in connection with the women's agenda. A representative human dimension seminar on combating violence against women was held recently. This proved once again that with political will, we are able to reach consensus. Attempts to impose confrontational approaches, on the other hand, have a negative impact on the overall atmosphere.

Caution is required when advancing new concepts in our Organization, including those relating to issues affecting the situation of women. The main criterion should be realism in terms of law enforcement practices and also compliance with States' international obligations.

Thank you for your attention.