



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Session 2: Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association Right of Reply**

As delivered by Ambassador Michael Kozak, Head of Delegation  
at the 2017 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, September 12, 2017

The United States recognizes the important role the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination plays in highlighting global human rights concerns, and we are reviewing the Committee's decision. The United States has a high regard for the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. While we respect diverse viewpoints, we also reject the egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence that took place in Charlottesville, as the President and other members of his cabinet have stated publicly. We note that, consistent with the commitments in the Copenhagen document, our justice system also provides effective remedies where violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms are alleged to have occurred. As we stated yesterday, the fullest force of the law will be brought against those responsible for the violence in Charlottesville Virginia, including the killing of Heather Heyer.

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