

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/1004/22
8 July 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1381st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 July 2022

**On the ongoing gross violations of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking
population by some Western OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to respond to the Ukrainian representative.

We have seen reports on social media of a strange meeting between supposed representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) and also the so-called “Orthodox Church of Ukraine”, as well as a short list of people who signed a declaration. It includes some ten middle-ranking UOC clerics. First, the authenticity of their signatures is questionable. Secondly, we do not know whom they represent, because the highest echelons in the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which, I note, has not abandoned its canonical unity with the Russian Orthodox Church, say quite the opposite. They point to the oppression of Orthodox congregations in Ukraine, attempts to seize churches, violence against members of the clergy and so on.

In that regard, we cannot be sure first of all that this is not a fake message. And even if it is not fake, we need to establish who these people are and whom they represent.

Thank you for your attention.