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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1025th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2014

**On the 76th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the
10th anniversary of the Berlin Conference**

Mr. Chairperson,

The International Day against Fascism, Racism and Anti-Semitism was celebrated on 9 November. This date is deeply symbolic. The events of 9 and 10 November 1938, which marked the start of one of the most tragic chapters in the twentieth century, should endure in the memory of each generation forever. We cannot allow our moral compass to drift or Nazism to be justified, for Nazism meant the enslavement and destruction of entire peoples during the Second World War.

Russia attaches particular significance to the subject of the Holocaust and the preservation of the memory of the millions of victims of the Second World War. Today the challenge of combating attempts to falsify history and the rise in racist and neo-Nazi sentiments is becoming especially relevant in the world community.

History goes round in circles. Kristallnacht serves as a constant reminder of what indifference and a laissez-faire attitude to manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism can lead to.

Today the words of Pastor Martin Niemöller, who was interned in Nazi concentration camps and after the war headed the World Council of Churches for a long time, are more relevant than ever:

“When the Nazis came for the communists,
I remained silent; I was after all not a communist.
Then they came for the social democrats,
I remained silent; I was after all not a social democrat.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
I remained silent; I was after all not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
I remained silent; I was after all not a Jew.

Then they came for me,
And there was no one left who could protest.”