



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1408th meeting of the Permanent Council,
26 January 2023

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Ambassador Ann Bernes, the President of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the presentation.

Every year, on the 27th of January, the world commemorates the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The memory of this atrocious tragedy resonates deeply in the Ukrainian society as 1.5 million Ukrainian Jews fell victims to the Holocaust, which represents a quarter of all of the Holocaust victims in Europe.

The 27th of January is an official “Holocaust Memorial Day”, established by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the occasion of the tragedy of Babyn Yar - the horrible massacre related to the Holocaust committed in Kyiv when it was occupied by Nazis. For two days, almost 34,000 Ukrainian Jews were executed by Nazis in a ravine on the outskirts of Kyiv, known as Babyn Yar. The trail of death in Babyn Yar did not end until Kyiv was liberated. The lives of more than 100,000 Ukrainians, Jews, Roma and people of other nationalities were taken. Kyiv has become one of the epicenters of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

Millions of Ukrainians sacrificed themselves and made an enormous contribution to the victory over Nazism by exemplary heroism in the struggle for the liberation of their native soil and countries of Europe. 2659 Ukrainians who saved the Jews during the Holocaust hold the high title of Righteous Among the Nations.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine takes this opportunity to reaffirm our strongest condemnation of all forms of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, discrimination, intolerance and hate crimes.

In 2021, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine “On preventing and combating anti-Semitism in Ukraine”, which incorporates into our national legislation the definition of anti-Semitism, endorsed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Ukraine is a co-sponsor of the UN General Assembly resolution condemning Holocaust denial.

Distinguished colleagues,

When exactly one year ago, in this very hall, we were all reiterating our commitment to the pledges “we remember” and “never again”, and were stressing that the tragedy of the Holocaust serves as a powerful reminder about the danger of war and the value of peace, russia was finalizing preparations for its full-scale invasion and genocidal war against Ukraine.

The whole civilized world is profoundly shocked by the mass atrocities committed by russian armed forces in the invaded Ukrainian territories, in particular in Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin, Iziyum, Lyman and other places, which manifested in numerous cases of summary execution, murder, torture and rape. russia resorted to its criminal practice of filtration camps. Thousands of Ukrainian citizens, including children, are forcibly deported to russia. Civilian population and critical infrastructure of Ukraine are under constant russian missile and artillery strikes causing enormous casualties and destruction.

Mass atrocity crimes by russian troops against civilians in Ukraine are not just war crimes but a deliberate and brutal murder of Ukrainians because they are Ukrainians.

Mr. Chairperson,

For a long time, russian elites have cultivated notions of russian superiority, exceptionalism, chauvinism and aggressive nationalism. This led to a consistent policy of hatred against other nations, religious and vulnerable groups, as well as growing number of the russian leadership anti-Semitic statements, including the Holocaust distortion.

Domestically, the russian regime persecutes Jehovah's Witnesses, LGBT people, national minorities, and political opposition. From the outside, and in relation to Ukrainians as a national group, this overall policy of hatred and chauvinism has acquired a genocidal character.

This is what happens when the lessons of the past are not learned. This is what happens when, instead of a decisive response and punishment, a “dialogue” is held with the aggressor and attempts are made to appease it.

It is critically important for the international community to employ all necessary instruments to hold russia, its leadership and military accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.