



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement in Response to the Report by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, H.E. Ambassador Christophe Kamp

As for delivery by the Delegation of Ukraine to the 1523rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

5 June 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine joins the Finnish Chairpersonship in welcoming Ambassador Christophe Kamp to the Permanent Council in his new capacity as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and thanks the High Commissioner for presenting the first Regular Report.

Dear Ambassador Kamp,

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to you for visiting Ukraine after being in this position for just over four months, and for holding so many important meetings with national and local authorities, as well as minority communities.

We appreciate the specific recommendations you provided to the relevant authorities on how to address the needs and aspirations expressed by national minorities, based on the findings of your recent visit to Ukraine.

Your assessment that despite Russia's ongoing war and related challenges, Ukraine has made significant progress in strengthening its legal and policy framework for protecting national minorities, particularly in the areas of language, education, participation and institutional support, is very important for us.

We value your attention to the steps Ukraine has taken to implement reforms aimed at improving its legislation on national minorities, including education reforms that continue to take the specific needs of minority communities into account.

In recent years, Ukraine has taken significant steps to protect the cultural, educational, linguistic and informational rights of persons belonging to national minorities and indigenous peoples, as defined by international law and outlined in Ukraine's Constitution and legislation.

Among other things, the laws 'On Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine' and 'On National Minorities (Communities)' were adopted. Amendments were made to the laws 'On National Minorities (Communities)' and 'On Education' to address some concerns raised by minority communities. In particular, we have expanded the scope of teaching in EU minority languages.

This proves once again that some of the claims and demands made by certain participating States are politically motivated and not constructive. Either these claims and demands are intended to delay Ukraine's accession to the EU, or they are intended to further instrumentalize the issue of protecting national minorities to justify the brutal war of aggression.

We fully echo your position that minority issues should be depoliticized, and that constructive dialogue should prevail, based on facts and international standards.

Ukraine has been and remains committed to the principles of partnership and is always open to constructive dialogue aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation with all states that share the values of democracy and the rule of law.

Dear High Commissioner,

We value your principled stance in condemning the impact of the Russian war on identity issues and those related to national minorities.

We share your serious concerns about the situation with Crimean Tatars and those displaced from territories temporarily occupied by Russia. It is indeed very important that you continue to follow up on these troubling developments.

Eleven years of illegal occupation of Crimea have significantly affected its residents. Human rights of Crimean Tatars have been grossly violated, their historical monuments have been destroyed, the Mejlis has been banned for nine years already. Crimean Tatar or Ukrainian language have been eliminated from the education process.

As of January 2025, Russia has illegally imprisoned more than 221 people in the temporarily occupied Crimea on ethnic, religious, and political grounds, including 137 Crimean Tatars.

The illegal transfer of political prisoners jailed in Crimea on trumped-up charges to Russia remains of particular concern. They are held in inhumane conditions and may die because they are not given basic medical care.

Esteemed colleagues,

It is important to emphasize that forced displacement, deportation and, in fact abduction by Russia of Ukrainian children from the temporarily occupied territories in an attempt to erase their identity, constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law that deserves special attention of the OSCE and its institutions. For Ukraine, the return of deported children is an extremely important humanitarian priority.

These children are subjected to various human rights violations, in particular those related to the change of the child's personal status, including citizenship, separation from their parents or guardians, illegal adoption, forced assimilation. This has been confirmed by reports of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, the ODIHR's interim reports, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, and other international monitoring mechanisms.

Ambassador Kamp, we ask you to prioritize addressing the totally unacceptable practices aimed at changing the personal status of Ukrainian children. It is crucial that we continue to advocate for accountability for Russia's genocidal actions.

Ambassador Kamp,

We value constructive dialogue established with your Office.

As we continue to face devastating effects of Russia's war, the HCNM's firm response to the grave human rights violations of national minorities and indigenous peoples in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine remains crucial.

In the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which has implications for the security of the entire OSCE region, the Office of the HCNM should prioritize early warning and clear public condemnation of any attempt to use national minorities to justify military action.

We remain ready to continue constructive dialogue with you and your able team on a wide range of issues related to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities and indigenous peoples.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.