

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the Working Session 9 “Tolerance and non-discrimination” of  
2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Mr. Moderator,  
Distinguished participants,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I would like to add some lines in my national capacity.

The Ukrainian delegation has repeatedly drawn attention within the OSCE to the threats posed by the surge of radicalism, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism in the Russian Federation. The growing aggressive nationalistic sentiment within Russia, paired with xenophobic public statements by mainstream politicians, presents a challenge to Russia in terms of implementation of its OSCE commitments and a serious risk to long-term stability within the OSCE area.

Many people belonging to Muslim community in Russia seriously suffer from suspicion of extremism and connections with terrorist groups. This affects persons of the North Caucasus descent and millions of migrant workers from the Central Asia. Systematic repressions against religious organizations are paired with ethnic profiling by the police and result in multiple discrimination. The situation of non-citizens is also critical as they are seen as “foreigners” on the basis of religion, country of origin etc. Propaganda at the Russian state television stations has persisted in creating an “image of enemy” of the Ukrainian people. The manifestations of anti-Semitism include regular attacks on synagogues and sites of religious significance to Judaism in Arkhangelsk, Perm, and Bryansk, as well as destruction of memorial and Jewish cemeteries in Kaliningrad, Petrozavodsk and other cities. There is also an increase in ethnic discrimination by the Russian authorities, including the practice of segregating Roma children in schools.

All these and many other facts are documented in the Alternative Report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the Russian Federation, prepared by several independent NGOs for the 93rd Session of the UN CERD.

The legislation is used to stifle dissenting views and voices. The so-called “anti-extremist” legislation, which the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission and other organizations recognized as non-conform to international human rights standards, remains a major source of threats to religious and other freedoms in Russia. The space for NGOs advocating human rights is rapidly shrinking, thus leaving the picture about real situation in Russia ever more obscure.

As we clearly see Russia faces important problems in terms of non-implementation of its international obligations and the OSCE commitments. Discrimination against ethnicities, hate speech, hate crimes, and anti-extremism laws that undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms are among those most acute problems.

We urge Russia to fully co-operate with the OSCE Institutions and use their expertise to assist Russia in implementing the relevant OSCE commitments, addressing the root causes of the rise of violent radicalism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in the Russian Federation. We remind the Russian delegation that the OSCE principles and commitments apply equally to all participating States, including Russia.

**I thank you, Mr.Moderator.**