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## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **In Recognition of Intersex Awareness Day**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Harry Kamian  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 2, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

In recognition of Intersex Awareness Day, and acknowledging our OSCE commitments and international obligations on combating intolerance and discrimination, the United States stands in solidarity with intersex persons and their advocates around the world.

The United States recognizes that intersex persons face violence, discrimination, harassment, and persecution on account of their sex characteristics. At a young age, intersex persons routinely face forced medical surgeries without free or informed consent. These interventions jeopardize their physical integrity and ability to live freely.

In honor of Intersex Awareness Day, the United States reaffirms its strong commitment to promoting a world where all persons can freely and equally express themselves with dignity, regardless of sex characteristics. When those most marginalized in society are afforded equal protection and opportunity, global security and stability are strengthened. Increased recognition, understanding, and awareness of intersex persons and their human rights strengthens democracy for all.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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