



United States Mission to the OSCE

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Harry Kamian
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 29, 2018

In observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, and the accompanying 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the United States reaffirms its commitment to defending the rights of women and girls to live free from violence.

Violence against women is a global issue that affects millions of people annually. Every woman and girl deserves a life free from violence. Eliminating violence against women and girls requires all of us—governments, the private sector, civil society, and faith-based organizations—to take action.

The United States strongly supports the theme of this year’s 16 Days of Activism: “Ending Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work.” Societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful. Ending violence within and beyond the workplace can ensure women unlock their potential as leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

The United States is committed to bringing workforce development and skills training to women and girls, advancing women’s entrepreneurship and expanding access to capital, and eliminating gender discrimination in the workplace.

In closing, I would like to thank the Italian Chairmanship for tabling a draft ministerial decision on combating violence against women. The United States commends the Chair’s efforts to keep gender equality on the OSCE agenda this year.

Thank you.