



Declaration

We, participants in a meeting of representatives of Russian and Ukrainian professional journalistic organizations (the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the Russian Union of Journalists), held in Vienna with the mediation of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media:

reaffirm our commitment to continue the dialogue and our aspiration to develop joint strategies for professional co-operation and protection of the rights of journalists in our countries, and we are confident that co-operation and open dialogue between journalists and professional organizations is an essential condition for overcoming misunderstanding, aggression and "hate speech" in the media, society and in the minds of citizens of our countries so as to develop means of peaceful communication and contribute to the establishment of long-awaited peace;

express alarm over new facts of violence against journalists and the use of journalists for propaganda purposes and will continue to draw attention to these facts;

express outrage over the participation of journalists in the interrogation of prisoners and hostages, which discredits the profession, turning journalists into participants in information warfare;

reiterate that journalists are not soldiers and should not be used as "motion picture extras" or conductors of influence, the most important guidelines for journalists are our professional objectives, professional standards and ethical principles of the profession;

remind all that acts of violence and obstruction of professional activities of journalists who perform their professional tasks and adhere to ethical principles of the profession are unacceptable; we will continue to draw attention to all facts of violence and demand that those responsible be held to account;

welcome the fact that there are no captured journalists as of now and hope it will remain so;

believe that common sense and professional solidarity will be able to overcome stereotypes and the politicians and propagandist's desire to drive a wedge between journalists of our countries and turn them into a tool of manipulation. We will promote co-operation between journalists, publishers and media experts.