



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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ENGLISH only

**Statement**  
**on the new wave of human rights violations against LGBTI persons in Chechnya**

As delivered by the Delegation of Ukraine  
to the 1212<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
17 January 2019

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine is deeply concerned by the new wave of human rights violations against LGTBI persons in the Russian Federation.

Just a month ago, OSCE Rapporteur's Report under the Moscow Mechanism on alleged Human Rights Violations and Impunity in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation was presented to the Permanent Council.

The Report's findings confirmed the major allegations of reported human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya and identified that there is a problem of total impunity of the Russian security forces that practice extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and tortures in secret prisons.

The questions about grave crimes and abuses were raised in the OSCE and put directly to the Russian Federation by numerous delegations, including of Ukraine, many times. Some of the crimes, such as the attack on the Joint Mobile Group of journalists and human rights activists from Norway, Russia and Sweden on 9 March 2016 at the administrative boarder of Chechnya and Ingushetia or murder of Memorial's regional representative in Chechnya and journalist Natalia Estemirova on 15 July 2009, have been on the OSCE agenda for years. None of the questions and requests on investigation and bringing the responsible to account received a meaningful response from the Russian delegation.

As we all see today, the Russian Federation didn't take any steps to implement the recommendations of the Professor Dr. Benedek's Report under the Moscow mechanism that is recognized by all the OSCE participating States to be a significant inter-governmental instrument for follow-up in the human dimension.

The total impunity of the perpetrators continues to lead to further break-down of the system of protection of basic human rights in the Russian Federation with a developed vertical system of cover-up which effectively condones the perpetration of those heinous crimes by the governmental authorities.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Due to the gravity of established human rights violations, the climate of impunity regarding these violations and the failure of the Russian authorities to ensure proper investigation and accountability, the delegation of Ukraine considers imperative the establishment of respective international mechanism of investigation.

We reiterate our request to the OSCE Secretariat together with ODIHR to present recommendations in this regard as soon as possible.

We ask the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship to attach full attention to the practical follow-up to the OSCE Rapporteur's Report under the Moscow Mechanism on alleged Human Rights Violations and Impunity in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation of 13 December 2018 and submitted recommendations as well as to today's Permanent Council discussion and to inform the participating States on progress.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**