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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1545th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 December 2025

In connection with Human Rights Day

Mr. Chairperson,

Human Rights Day is celebrated in all countries around the world on 10 December. It was on this significant date 76 years ago, in 1948, that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This unique document, which established universal rights and acknowledged their equal value, remains relevant today.

United Nations Member States adopted the Universal Declaration, motivated by a desire to strengthen respect for the dignity of, and restore the worth of, the human person. This was a natural consequence of the Second World War, the most catastrophic event of the last century. However, the countries of the collective West and their satellites have still not learned the bitter lessons of history. There is still no understanding that the ideas of Nazism and racial superiority have no place in a civilized world.

The hatred cultivated over many years in Ukraine and the Baltic States towards everything connected with Russia and our shared history has resulted in an unprecedented rise in neo-Nazism and xenophobia. Humanity-hating ideas are once again gaining ground – marches by Nazi henchmen, torchlit processions and the “war” against monuments have long since become the norm. Nothing is sacred to the Russophobes any more – their latest goal is to ban canonical Orthodox Christianity. This blind hatred of all things Russian continues to be fuelled by the elites in Brussels and London.

The recent statements and actions of Western delegations during the negotiation and adoption of the annual United Nations General Assembly resolution on combating the glorification of Nazism, including their use of procedural provocations, merely serve as further confirmation of the policy of those who oppose our initiative, a policy of revising the history and outcome of the Second World War.

Human rights continue to be used by the West as leverage and as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States under the plausible pretext of defending values and democracy. Alien neoliberal “approaches” are being imposed under these so-called values. They are being presented as some kind of universal basis for everyday life. The historical, cultural and religious specificities of countries are disregarded in the process.

We shall not dwell on the systemic human rights problems that exist in a number of Western countries that are so fond of lecturing others, including in this room. You yourselves are well aware of the extent to which freedoms are being violated. All those who wished to do so had sufficient time to read the in-depth report on the human rights situation in certain countries presented by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Russia and Belarus here in the Hofburg on 30 June, as well as the recently distributed information and reference material on the rise of neo-Nazism in Europe.

Not even one Permanent Council meeting would be enough to list even a small fraction of the problems that have a propensity to spread in Ukraine, Moldova, the Baltic States, Scandinavia, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and other Western countries. Let us just emphasize that we remain open to constructive and depoliticized dialogue on these issues. We are also awaiting a response from the relevant OSCE executive structures to all the instances of rights violations in the area covered by our Organization.

It is regrettable that it has not been possible to have a meaningful direct dialogue on the reasons for the woeful human rights situation in the OSCE area. We see no way out of the current impasse. Nor do we see any basis for the resumption of such a dialogue.

Instead, we are continuing to observe the West as it repeats the same hackneyed Russophobic clichés like a mantra, clichés that bear no relation to reality and that have been refuted even by the Kyiv regime itself and the Western media. They refer, among other things, to the alleged “deportation” of thousands or even tens of thousands of children.

We should like to remind you that the protection of minors has always been a priority for Russia. Our country is constantly taking measures to ensure their safety. And it is precisely these measures that are being twisted by some delegations to suit their short-term political agenda. The Russian authorities are evacuating children from the combat zone primarily for their own safety. There is no question of forcible detention, assimilation or adoption. But those who have spoken here, taking advantage of this misinformation, clearly do not want to hear the truth and continue to irresponsibly manipulate this issue. This has nothing to do with concern for the children.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has consistently advocated co-operation in the human rights sphere in strict accordance with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and with OSCE commitments. No rules drawn up by a club of “chosen” States can be a substitute for them. Genuine co-operation is possible only on the basis of a respectful dialogue of equals.

Thank you for your attention.