



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yurii Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1563rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 2, “Current Issue”

“On the Dangers of Holocaust Distortion and Denial” (raised by the delegation of the United States of America)
(7 May 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine thanks the Delegation of the United States for raising this important current issue and welcomes the presence of the U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Ms Ellen Germain, in Vienna.

For Ukraine, Holocaust remembrance is not a matter of diplomatic calendar. Babyn Yar is not a metaphor. It is a place on our land, a wound in our capital, and one of the clearest reminders of what happens when hatred is allowed to mature into state policy. This is why Ukraine speaks about Holocaust distortion with particular moral clarity.

The problem is not remembrance. The problem begins when remembrance is turned into a weapon. When the victory over Nazism is privatized by one state. When the suffering of millions is reduced to an imperial myth. When the language of anti-fascism is used to justify aggression, occupation and the destruction of another nation. This is exactly what the Russian Federation has been doing.

Under the cynical pretext of “denazification”, Russia launched a full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine – a democratic state led by a President of Jewish origin, a country where the memory of the Holocaust is preserved even under missile attacks.

No calendar date, including in May, gives any participating State a license to falsify history or to hide today’s crimes behind yesterday’s victory.

A state that invokes 1945 while denying Ukraine’s right to exist, deporting Ukrainian children, detaining civilians, destroying cities and persecuting communities in the occupied territories is not defending historical truth. It is desecrating it.

Dear colleagues,

In the OSCE, our commitments against anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial and intolerance are not ceremonial language. They are part of our common security.

The real test of “Never Again” is not how solemnly we speak about the past. The real test is whether we stop the same logic of hatred, dehumanization and imperial domination when it appears in our own time.

Ukraine rejects false equivalencies between the aggressor and the victim. We reject Russia’s attempt to disguise its war of aggression as historical justice.

Memory must protect life. It must not be used to justify death.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.