



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Joint Forum for Security Co-operation /
Permanent Council:
Security Dialogue on Treatment of
Prisoners of War: Obligations and
Responsibilities

For Delivery by Chargé d'Affaires Kate Rebholz
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Thank you, Madam Chair,

Today's Security Dialogue addresses the treatment of prisoners of war – a fundamental concern and a core OSCE commitment. From the Helsinki Final Act to the Charter of Paris, and through our Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, participating States have collectively committed to the humane treatment of all persons in their custody during armed conflict.

Four years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we note with grave concern the documented violations throughout this war. We call on all parties to ensure prisoners of war are treated humanely and with dignity and to uphold their obligations to protect those in their custody.

This dialogue provides an essential opportunity to exchange best practices on training armed forces personnel, implementing effective monitoring mechanisms, ensuring accountability for violations, and protecting the rights of all prisoners of war. As we work toward ending this conflict, we must reaffirm our collective

commitment to the humane treatment of prisoners and the fundamental principles that underpin peace and security in the region.

Thank you, Madam Chair.