



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the address by H.E. Ambassador Christophe Kamp, OSCE
High Commissioner on National Minorities to the 1540th Plenary Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

Vienna, 30 October 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the 26 European Union member-states and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Dear Ambassador Kamp,

We appreciate your continued engagement with the Ukrainian authorities and minority representatives. Ukraine remains committed to building an inclusive and modern framework on minority issues, in line with Ukraine's Constitution, international obligations, and OSCE commitments.

We welcome the High Commissioner's assistance in strengthening the institutional capacities of Ukrainian bodies dealing with minority affairs. Ensuring the protection of minority rights, even under conditions of Russia's ongoing war of aggression, is an integral part of Ukraine's statehood.

In recent years, Ukraine has taken significant steps to protect the cultural, educational, linguistic and informational rights of persons belonging to national minorities and indigenous peoples. Among other things, the laws 'On Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine' and 'On National Minorities (Communities)' were adopted. Amendments were made to the laws 'On National Minorities (Communities)' and 'On Education' to address some concerns raised by minority communities. In particular, we have expanded the scope of teaching in EU minority languages.

Ukraine fully agrees that **minority issues should never be politicized**. We see how such practices can be misused to fuel division – as demonstrated by Russia's long-standing manipulation of minority narratives to advance its political agenda. This instrumentalization has been cynically used to justify aggression against Ukraine under the false pretext of **"protecting" Russian-speaking communities**.

Ukraine continues to work closely with the High Commissioner's recommendations following your April visit to Ukraine, viewing them as part of our joint efforts to strengthen democratic resilience and alignment with European standards.

We appreciate your principled stance in condemning the impact of Russia's war of aggression on identity issues and national minorities.

In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the occupying power continues to destroy the country's multicultural heritage through forced russification, deportations, intimidation, and persecution. Minority communities – including

Crimean Tatars, Roma, Karaites, Bulgarians, Czechs, Estonians, Swedes, Urums, Greeks and others – face repression, forced assimilation, and the suppression of their cultural and religious life.

At least **137 Crimean Tatars** remain imprisoned in Russia on fabricated charges. The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People remains banned, while cultural and religious sites of national communities have been damaged or destroyed.

Most recently, on 15 October, Russian security forces conducted mass searches in the homes of Crimean Tatars across several districts of temporarily occupied Crimea. Among those detained were Esma Nimetullaieva, the wife of political prisoner Remzi Nimetullaiev and a mother of five children; Nasiba Saiidova, a student and kindergarten teacher; as well as Elvira Alieva and Fevzie Osmanova.

Human rights defenders and Crimean Tatar representatives stressed that these women were targeted because of their family ties to political prisoners and their role in supporting the Crimean Tatar community. By persecuting women, the occupation authorities **seek to intimidate relatives of detainees and suppress any expressions of solidarity or civic activity.**

These actions are part of Moscow's ongoing campaign aimed at erasing the Crimean Tatar people's identity, culture, and spiritual heritage. All violations and crimes committed by the occupying power must be duly investigated, and those responsible must be brought to justice.

Esteemed colleagues,

One of the gravest Russia's crimes and a profound violation of human rights on the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine is the **deportation of Ukrainian children.** These children suffer from deep psychological trauma. They have been separated from their families, deprived of their native language, even names, some of them have experienced violence, isolation and systematic ideological indoctrination.

Over 19,000 cases have been documented. Through the **"Bring Kids Back UA"** initiative, Ukraine works tirelessly to locate and return abducted children – **more than 1,660 have already been brought home** – yet Russia continues to obstruct this process and deny access to international organizations.

We highly value the constructive dialogue established with your Office. As Ukraine continues to face the devastating consequences of Russia's war, we count on the HCNM's continued attention to the situation of national minorities and indigenous peoples in the temporarily occupied territories, as well as to Russia's ongoing attempts to indoctrinate Ukrainian children. **Justice for these grave violations** remains essential.

We ask you, High Commissioner, to take concrete steps, in line with your entrusted mandate, to facilitate the immediate release of illegally detained political prisoners and to help stop persecution and other flagrant human rights violations by Russia against representatives of the indigenous peoples of Ukraine.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.