



United States Mission to the OSCE

Universality and Indivisibility of Human Rights for All

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 4, 2024

The United States reaffirms the foundational importance of upholding human rights, a principle deeply rooted in my country's history and Constitution and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is no more fitting an occasion to mark this commitment than today, July 4th, when the United States commemorates our Declaration of Independence. For more than two centuries, advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms has been intrinsic to our national identity. It is also a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and crucial to achieving comprehensive security in the OSCE region and around the world.

Since its founding, the OSCE has played a pivotal role in advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms across its diverse 57 participating States. Through robust dialogue among governments and outreach to civil society, the OSCE creates a platform to hold participating States accountable for meeting their international law obligations and OSCE commitments. To put these obligations and commitments into practice, the OSCE supports media freedom and the safety of journalists, fosters free and fair elections processes and the rule of law, and promotes tolerance and non-discrimination—all critical components of free societies.

Accountability is essential to ensure that governments act in accordance with their human rights obligations and commitments. The United States acknowledges that no country is perfect, including our own. All OSCE participating States must continuously strive to make progress, to face up to and correct our shortcomings, and to honor the obligations and commitments that each and every one of us has freely undertaken. These commitments were not forced upon any of us. Those who seek to portray human rights obligations and commitments as alien impositions are looking for an excuse to justify their abuses. They are looking for an excuse to deny the indivisibility and universality of human rights and the inherent dignity of all persons.

Madam Chair, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security underscores that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms within states is essential to lasting cooperation and peace among states. The United States remains committed to fostering democratic governance and advancing the cause of human rights at home and abroad.

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