



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement
in response to Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov,
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**

As for delivery by Viktoriia Kuvshynnykova, Chargée D'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1482nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Dear High Commissioner,

We take note of the presented Regular report.

Even in the most difficult times, Ukraine values the ethnic and national diversity of its society and embodies an open policy of creating more opportunities for self-realization of national minorities (communities).

We appreciate your continued attention to the steps taken by Ukraine to implement reforms aimed at improving Ukrainian legislation on national minorities.

Reforms are implemented according to defined European standards and relevant international commitments undertaken by Ukraine.

Regrettably, due to russia's war against Ukraine, all citizens of Ukraine, both ethnic Ukrainians and persons belonging to national minorities (communities) and indigenous peoples, feel its devastating impact on ensuring their rights and freedoms.

Ambassador Abdrakhmanov,

We fully share your concern about the impact of barbaric policies of russia in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine on the local population.

Such concerns are not unfounded as russia continues to violate the Geneva Conventions, which stipulate a number of duties to be observed by an occupying state with regard to civilians who remain in the occupied territory. And it's not just about language and education rights.

In violation of the rules of international humanitarian law, russia is carrying out the forced conscription of Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

It pursues criminal practice of forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children to russia followed by changing their citizenship, facilitating the procedure for their adoption by russian families, placing them in an entirely russian environment, including language, customs and religion, and impeding their repatriation and reunification with their families in Ukraine.

The illegal deportation and forced russification of Ukrainian children is part of the kremlin's genocidal policy against the Ukrainian people in violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. All this has been confirmed and documented by different international mechanisms, including the OSCE Moscow Mechanism.

We strongly believe that priority attention and targeted actions within the mandate of the High Commissioner are essential to address such totally unacceptable violations of international law by the aggressor state.

Access to education for millions of children in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine has been severely disrupted. The Russian army continues to destroy educational facilities or use them for military purposes or as torture chambers for civilians in retaliation for their pro-Ukrainian stance. Ukrainian literature is being massively removed and Russian propaganda textbooks are being supplied to the remaining educational institutions.

Everyday developments prove that Russia's ultimate goal is to destroy the entire Ukrainian culture and identity. Let me remind you of one of the latest examples of Russia's true intentions.

On 23 May, Russia fired three missiles at the Kharkiv printing house of the Vivat publishing house – one of the largest printing houses in Europe, Factor-Druk, where books by almost all Ukrainian publishers are printed.

The Russians are burning Ukrainian books, destroying Ukrainian printing houses and killing Ukrainian book publishers and authors. Destroying everything Ukrainian - this is what this war is about. Advocating accountability for the genocidal actions of the aggressor remains crucial for Ukraine.

Dear High Commissioner,

The current situation in the Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied by Russia clearly shows the consequences of violating the territorial integrity of an independent state. The aggressor state is trying to change the ethnic composition of these territories, actively deporting Ukrainians and forcibly resettling them in Russia, as well as carrying out large-scale resettlement of people from remote regions of Russia to Ukraine.

As the European Court of Human Rights confirmed in its judgment from 25 of June, the situation of the occupied Crimea is very illustrative in this regard, which unfortunately has not found proper reflection in the HCNM report. Russia's continued persecution of Ukrainians, representatives of national minorities, Crimean Tatars and other indigenous peoples has to remain high on the HCNM's radar.

All these violations are a stark reminder why the respect for territorial integrity, as enshrined by the Helsinki Final Act, matters. Because it is about people.

We believe that the OSCE, including its Institution, can and should play a role in the implementation of the rightful goal of Ukraine's Peace Formula which remains the only realistic and comprehensive plan to end Russia's war, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, achieve a just peace in Europe and defend the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act principles.

The restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity is the only guarantee of freedom and rights back to people, including national minorities.

Dear Kairat,

As this is your last report as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, I would like to thank you and your dedicated team for co-operation and wish you best of luck in your future endeavours.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.