



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1472<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**9 May 2024**

Madam Chair,

Since February 2022, we have witnessed unfathomable suffering in Ukraine at the hands of the Russian Federation.

In 2014, Russia broke the laws on which peaceful existence among nations is based: respect for sovereignty, refraining from use of force, and territorial integrity.

Since then, Russia has destroyed entire cities in Ukraine, and committed – and continues to commit – unspeakable atrocities against Ukrainians. Countless reports have documented the systematic nature of these atrocities. The President of the Russian Federation and three other Russian officials are under international arrest warrants for war crimes.

In Ukraine, Russia acts with impunity, undeterred by international law, political commitments, scruples, or morals.

Nothing seems off-limits. Schools, kindergartens, cultural objects, medical facilities, and energy infrastructure are attacked across Ukraine, by Russia.

Russia deports and forcibly transfers children away from their families and communities.

Civilians are arbitrarily detained, tortured, abused, raped, and killed. Prisoners of War are likewise mistreated. This is happening every day. As we speak.

There are laws in warfare. Russia does not respect them, nor does it respect political commitments it makes.

These actions put in question the value and credibility of Russia's partnership.

Madam Chair,

Behind every finding or allegation of atrocities committed in Ukraine lies evidence, and behind evidence are witnesses. People.

These people have been at the receiving end of arbitrary detention, torture, abuse, and rape. They are robbed of their rights and dignity and will carry these scars forever.

Behind every attack on civilian infrastructure are people losing their homes, their life's earnings, sometimes their lives.

Every child that is deported or forcibly transferred by Russia away from parents or guardians is robbed of a critical connection to family, culture and community. Russia's choice to russify these children violates the foundational principles of children's rights, principles that Russia itself helped to internationalize when the international day for the protection of children was launched in Moscow in 1949, which we mark every June 1.

Every single one of the 6 million Ukrainians refugees in Europe and elsewhere in the world, including in my country, tells a story of personal tragedy and loss.

Madam Chair,

Just in the last week since we last met, Russia's attacks on Ukraine and Ukrainians continued. Let me share some reports with the Council.

On May 2, it was reported that Russian rockets killed three people in Kharkiv and Donetsk oblasts, including a 12-year-old child, and damaged seven private residences, injuring two more in the village of Memryk in Donetsk.

On the 3 of May, again in Kharkiv, it was reported that Russian guided bombs left one woman dead and two people wounded.

On the 4 of May, Russia's shelling killed two individuals and injured two others in Dnipropetrovsk oblast and Kharkiv city.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the day of Orthodox Easter, Russian attacks killed one person and injured 17 in Ukraine's Kharkiv and surrounding region, according to Ukrainian officials.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, Russia attacked energy infrastructure in the Sumy region, causing a power outage for about 400,000 people in 90 settlements, and forcing hospitals to rely on back-up power. On the same day, an aerial bombardment on Kostiantynivka in Donetsk left four individuals injured, one of them gravely.

In the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, Russia targeted power generation and transmission facilities in six regions of Ukraine in sweeping attacks on energy infrastructure.

This is just one week of Russian aggression in Ukraine. There have been 115 such weeks since February 2022.

We cannot be indifferent to the human suffering of Ukrainians as this war continues for the third year.

We must continue to hold Russia accountable for its actions in Ukraine, including in this chamber.

Finally, Canada reiterates its call for the immediate and unconditional release of the three SMM staff illegally detained by Russia: Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov.

Thank you, Madam Chair.