



**2018 OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING, WARSAW,
10 - 21 September 2018**

**WRITTEN STATEMENT IN WORKING SESSION 8: Tolerance and non-
discrimination I, including rights of persons belonging to national minorities,
and preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism, 14 September
2018**

The Ukrainian authorities must immediately address the rising violence by political groups that are advocating hatred and discrimination, bring the perpetrators to account and provide effective remedies to the victims. The de facto authorities in Crimea should stop harassment of the Crimean Tatar community and the increasingly severe persecution of its members. Robust international action is needed to address these issues, including monitoring, reporting and raising these issues at the relevant multi- and bi-lateral fora.

Homophobic, racist and repressive groups in Ukraine are increasingly using violence and intimidation against LGBTI and women's rights defenders, Roma families and other people and groups due to their identity or views. With few exceptions (including Kyiv Pride in 2017 and 2018), the authorities have failed to recognise the significance and scale of this problem, or effectively address it. These groups often openly plan and conduct attacks with impunity. This impunity perpetrates the problem, denies justice to victims, and undermines the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Crimean Tatars are systematically persecuted following the occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. In breach of international law, Russia has imposed its legislation wholesale on the peninsula. It has taken steps to eliminate independent Crimean Tatar-language media, and effectively banned any commemorative or cultural events except those organized by the de facto authorities. The Crimean Tatar's representative organization, Mejlis, has been arbitrarily banned as "extremist" and any association with it is criminalized. The de facto authorities routinely harass the community, including by raiding and searching Crimean Tatar homes on arbitrary grounds; arresting peaceful protesters; unlawfully dispersing informal gatherings and fingerprinting and interrogating their participants. The number of Crimean Tatars prosecuted and imprisoned under trumped-up charges related to extremism and terrorism is growing, while criminal proceedings against them are marked by numerous fair trial violations. The fate of all forcibly disappeared Crimean Tatar activists remains undetermined, despite strong evidence (including video footage in some cases) pointing to pro-Russian paramilitaries and de facto authorities as alleged perpetrators - who enjoy total impunity.