



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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As we contemplate this upcoming holiday season, we must also remember those who are unable to join in the celebration.

Tragically, comfort, peace, and security will not be felt by the people of Ukraine. They are forced to endure the agonies of war by a Kremlin with imperial delusions that has no regard for human life – including the lives of its own soldiers. A Kremlin that shows utter contempt for international law and the foundational principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

The suffering the Kremlin is needlessly inflicting on the Ukrainian people is especially cruel for Ukraine's children. This includes those forcibly transferred within Russian occupied parts of Ukraine or deported to Russia, and the children subjected to Russia's systematic program of coerced adoptions. In a December 3rd report, Yale's Humanitarian Research Lab identified 314 Ukrainian children who Russia had forced into this system, at least 67 of whom have already been naturalized as Russian citizens. Russia has separated some of these children from their siblings when doing so. Yale researchers assess the true numbers are likely significantly higher.

Russia *could* reunite these children with family and lawful guardians in Ukraine. Just as Russia *could* end its war and respect Ukraine's right to sovereignty and territorial integrity. It does neither.

As Secretary Blinken stated last week at the OSCE Ministerial Council, Russia has instead chosen to continue its violations of international law and its dangerous military escalation. This includes:

- Bringing more than 10,000 North Korean troops into the fight.
- Lowering the threshold in Russia's doctrine for the use of its nuclear weapons.
- Launching intermediate range ballistic missiles with potential nuclear capabilities.
- Ratcheting up threats against Ukraine and its partners.
- And continuing to relentlessly attack Ukraine's energy sector to try to freeze people out of their homes. This includes strikes on Ukraine's nuclear power generation facilities and electric transmission system, which threatens the safe operation of Ukraine's nuclear power plants and poses a grave threat to every country in this room.

Madam Chair, Russia has given no indication whatsoever of any good faith interest in peace. We will continue to support Ukraine in its just war of self-defense. We do so because we understand it is also our fight, and our future, that is at stake. Russia's aggression attacks our shared values, threatens our allies and European security, and prevents the world from being free, open, and at peace. It was clear from the outpouring of support for Ukraine last week that the vast majority of OSCE participating States stands with Ukraine.

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