



United States Mission to the OSCE

Right of Reply to the Russian Federation

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Harry Kamian
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 27, 2018

I would like to join others in expressing my regret that the Russian Federation has once again chosen to divert our Council's attention and focus from the most pressing security challenges and issues facing the OSCE, and first and foremost is Russian aggression in Ukraine.

However, since my country was mentioned, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the U.S. position on a few of the issues that the Russian delegation mentioned.

At home and across the OSCE region and the world, the United States remains committed to working with governments at all levels, businesses, faith communities, civil society groups, international organizations, to make clear that there can be no room for hate crimes against anyone, anywhere, and for any reason. It is our strong conviction that all States must meet such crimes with a strong law enforcement response.

In the United States the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 has enabled the Department of Justice to bring hate crime charges in close to 200 cases over the past decade. This includes 32 convictions for hate crime offenses since January 2017, based on bias characteristics of race, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation.

The United States federal authorities continue to work closely with civil society and state and local law enforcement across the country to provide training outreach and other initiatives to equip communities with the tools to address hate crimes, and this includes our communities in helping organizations understand what constitutes hate crime so it can be investigated and prosecuted.

And so as to not take up anymore of this Council's time Mr. Chairman, I would refer the Russian Federation as well as other delegations to the official position the United States laid out last week in Warsaw in Working Session 16 of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.