



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  
1408<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**26 January 2023**

Mr. Chair,

I join Ukraine and others in firmly condemning Russia's abhorrent overnight drone and missile attack against cities across Ukraine. We applaud the determined and skilled work of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in intercepting most or all of these drones and missiles. I extend Canada's deepest sympathies to those affected by these heinous attacks, the latest in an ever-growing list of Russia's deliberate, repeated attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure across Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to read out a statement made by my Prime Minister earlier this week, on Ukraine's Day of Unity. On Sunday, he said: "Today, as the people of Ukraine continue to fight for their freedom in the face of Russia's brutal and unjustifiable invasion, we join them in marking the Day of Unity of Ukraine. We celebrate the country's unification in 1919 and its eventual independence and honour the brave Ukrainians who gave their lives to defend Ukraine's liberty.

"On January 22, 1919, the Unification Act was proclaimed, joining the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic into a single, independent state. This day has traditionally been associated with images of people holding hands to form living chains, representing a strong and united Ukraine. Since Russia's latest aggression against Ukraine began almost a year ago, people around the world, including *[right here]* in Canada, have been forming living chains to express their solidarity with Ukrainians, denounce Russia's invasion, and share hope for a peaceful future.

"Canada's ties with Ukraine run deep. We are home to the second largest Ukrainian diaspora in the world, with over 1.4 million people of Ukrainian descent living in this country today. When Ukraine again declared its independence in 1991, Canada was the first Western country to recognize that status. And since then, we have enjoyed a close bilateral relationship rooted in deep ties between our peoples and shared values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

“As Russia continues its brutal, unjustifiable invasion, the Government of Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people and government to achieve peace and help secure a free and democratic future for Ukraine. We will continue to support Ukraine with military, humanitarian, financial, and social assistance for as long as necessary.”

Mr. Chair,

I will pause here for a moment, to follow up on this idea of supporting Ukraine “for as long as necessary”. We, together with all the participating States around this table who have demonstrated their resolve to stand with Ukraine, will continue to provide military assistance so that Ukraine can defend itself and its population against Russia’s aggression. Russia's refusal to live by its OSCE commitments has brought death, destruction, and instability to the OSCE region. Russian forces continue to trample on the human rights, freedoms, and dignity of all Ukrainians. Its war continues to have severe consequences on Ukrainian women, men, and children. Hundreds of children have died in the indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure while thousands of others have reportedly been deported to Russia.

We condemn Russia’s attacks designed to terrorize Ukraine’s people, including intentional attacks against the civilian population and civilian infrastructure such as those we have seen overnight, which may constitute war crimes, and we call on Russia to abide by international humanitarian law, the UN Charter, and the principles and commitments it has signed on to.

We call on Russia to release all SMM staff and to promptly return SMM assets to the OSCE.

And we reiterate our call upon Russia to end this war of aggression and to withdraw all troops and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I would like to close with my Prime Minister’s concluding words earlier this week: “we stand together against violence, authoritarianism, and threats to democracy. We honour the lives tragically lost in the fight to protect Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. And we continue to uphold the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and justice that unite our peoples.

“Slava Ukraini!”

Thank you.