



United States Mission to the OSCE

On Georgia's Foreign Agents Registration Act

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 12, 2025

As I am taking the floor for the first time today, I would like to also express our condolences. Like so many throughout Austria and around the world, we are shocked and saddened by Tuesday's tragic school shooting in Graz. We offer our deepest condolences to the victims, their families, classmates, and teachers.

We stand with the people of Austria in this impossibly difficult time and mourn alongside them. No student, educator, or parent should have to face such horror.

Americans know all too well that "thoughts and prayers" – however well-intentioned – will not prevent future tragedies. It is my sincere hope that Austria and Austrians will take whatever action deemed necessary to minimize the chances of something like this ever happening again. Wir trauern mit Graz.

And now to the current issues at hand.

Despite some similarities with the U.S. law of the same name, we have serious concerns that Georgia will enforce its recently passed Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA, selectively against actual or perceived critics of the Georgian government—thus restricting freedom of expression and unduly limiting the work of civil society.

While many countries legitimately work to monitor and counteract foreign influences in order to preserve their sovereignty, they must do so in a manner consistent with their domestic and international obligations. Georgia's new law adds to the many pieces of legislation passed over the past year which may suppress Georgians' exercise of their fundamental freedoms. We are concerned that insufficient clarity about the enforcement of the law is damaging the business environment in Georgia even for organizations to whom the law, as written, should not apply, such as non-political charities, scientific endeavors, and Western businesses. We are glad that the Georgian government acted to clarify that the law did not apply to local staff of foreign diplomatic missions, but we would like to see additional clarity to ensure that the law does not undermine fundamental freedoms or chill civic society and the business climate.

As Vice President Vance said in Munich, "there is no security if you are afraid of the voices, the opinions, and the conscience that guide your very own people."

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