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**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
AT THE 1544th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 November 2025

**On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Mr. Chairperson,

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 to raise awareness and unite the efforts of the international community in the fight against this phenomenon.

However, no significant progress has been made. This is not surprising, given that the “fight” has largely boiled down to grand proclamations, performative activism and the implementation of artificial and superficial measures that do nothing to address the root causes of violence against women. How can flashy campaigns contribute to the eradication of abuse? Or the European Parliament building illuminated in orange with the slogan “A light for every woman and girl who has suffered in silence”? It is clear that this kind of “awareness-raising” and “joining of forces” is obviously not enough.

The solution to these problems lies elsewhere. First and foremost, poverty, unemployment, institutional barriers and social stratification must be addressed.

Mr. Chairperson,

The elimination of violence against women is a priority for our country. It is precisely a systematic approach to eradicating this evil that the Russian Federation promotes, including within the OSCE, when it insists on incorporating the protection of social and economic rights into the human rights agenda.

In terms of domestic policy, these purposes are served, *inter alia*, by the National Action Strategy for Women, which runs until 2030. The key objectives of this strategy are to uphold the principle of equal rights for men and women in various spheres of life, increase economic independence and political activity, prevent social hardship among women, and preserve the health of women of all ages. The prevention of social hardship involves expanding support mechanisms for women who find themselves living in difficult circumstances, developing a network of social integration centres that provide accommodation for women who have experienced domestic violence, and other measures.

Mr. Chairperson,

The problem of violence against women has reached catastrophic proportions in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime.

According to Ukrainian human rights organizations, some 50 per cent of women have been victims of sexual violence at least once in their lives, 25 per cent of whom were under the age of 18.

Another lamentable trend is the operation of “Ukrainian baby factories” in Ukraine and the industrial-scale exploitation of women’s bodies, as reported by the media. This has also been mentioned by the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Reem Alsalem. She underscores the relevance of this growing problem in a report published in July this year on “The different manifestations of violence against women and girls in the context of surrogacy”. The expert notes that women who provide such reproductive services are “forced to live in small, overcrowded apartments, without access to hot water and with severe limitations on their freedom of movement”.

The use of violence by the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions against women who have ever been suspected of sympathizing with the Russian Federation is widespread. According to French journalist Laurent Brayard, the Security Service of Ukraine drugged women and girls and subjected them to gang rapes and severe beatings. As stated in the testimonies of women handed over by Ukraine as part of prisoner exchanges, they were subjected to even harsher torture than the men.

For example, a number of non-governmental organizations cite figures indicating that between March and December 2022, fighters from the Azov nationalist battalion raped some 3,500 women in Mariupol, near Kharkov, in Zaporozhye, in Kherson and in the Dnepropetrovsk region. Of these, 1,900 were raped in Donbass, around 800 in the Kherson region and more than 500 in the Kharkov region. There are also about 300 known cases in the Dnepropetrovsk region.

The residents of the Kursk region experienced a living hell after formations from the Ukrainian armed forces invaded in August 2024. Surviving witnesses confirm that there were many mercenaries and members of neo-Nazi groups among the fighters, and they did not care whom they killed and raped – men, women or children. The brutality of the crimes committed is shocking. For example, on 18 January 2025, the bodies of tortured and murdered local residents were discovered in the basements of residential buildings in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye. Their deaths had resulted from hours of abuse, including violent acts of a sexual nature.

The female members of the Ukrainian armed forces’ “International Legion”, many of whom are citizens of Czechia, Georgia, Denmark and Sweden, are also characterized by cruelty. One example is Annabell Jørgensen, a Danish citizen who fled to her homeland after the Russian Investigative Committee opened a case against her for mercenary activities, participation in terrorist activities and complicity in the rape of a civilian woman in the Kharkov region.

Violence is an everyday occurrence for female soldiers in the Ukrainian armed forces. This is backed up, in particular, by former members of the notorious female assault regiment “Skala”.

And this is only a fraction of the atrocities committed by the Kyiv regime. We assure you that the Russian Federation’s law enforcement authorities will leave no stone unturned in their efforts to clear up these crimes. Criminal cases are being instituted in connection with specific incidents, and all the facts are being carefully documented. This work is being carried out, *inter alia*, within the framework of the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis and under the auspices of the Russian

Foreign Ministry, primarily Ambassador-at-Large for the crimes of the Kyiv regime, Rodion Miroshnik. All the perpetrators will be brought to justice and severely punished.

We call upon the Western alliance countries to stop hushing up the Kyiv regime's unlawful acts – otherwise, we must interpret it as criminal complicity.

The problem of violence in so-called civilized democracies, including in the Kyiv regime's Western handlers, is worsening. A study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published in 2024 is telling in this regard. Its findings are disheartening: despite numerous political initiatives and educational measures taken in recent years, almost one in three women in the European Union aged 15 and above has experienced violence. Multiple forms of violence have been recorded – psychological violence, harassment, physical and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion, sterilization and “honour-based” crimes.

All is not well in Germany. Here, almost 15 per cent of women aged 15 and older have experienced sexual violence at least once, and 11 per cent have experienced physical (non-sexual) violence.

The situation in Scandinavia, which is typically considered a “pioneer” in gender equality, is dramatic: in Sweden more than 40 per cent of women say they have been victims of sexual violence, in Finland – 37 per cent, and in Denmark – 33 per cent.

This “gender paradox” has become a subject of particular interest for Finnish researchers, among others. They point out that violence against women is extremely widespread in Finland. More than 50 per cent of women have experienced physical violence, sexual violence or threats in recent years. According to Statistics Finland, in 2023, the number of victims of violence by a partner/spouse increased by 10.7 per cent compared to the previous year.

It is telling that experts in the field, such as the executive director of the local branch of UN Women, acknowledge that there are difficulties in collecting and interpreting data, but regardless of the methodology used, the results for Finland are consistently negative. This is facilitated, among other things, by significant cuts in funding for non-governmental organizations and crisis centres, which play a key role in the Finnish violence prevention system.

According to researchers at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, the need for specialized assistance will only increase. In their view, this is due in no small part to the high level of mental illness in Finnish families and the use of violence as a way of solving problems.

The problem of discrimination against Indigenous women and girls in Canada has lost none of its relevance. In particular, this follows from the conclusions of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Experts cite violence as one of the main problems faced by the Indigenous population. This is particularly true of the practice of forced sterilization, which continues despite being utterly inhumane and callous. Cases of non-consensual medical interventions were recorded up until 2023 in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and the Northwest Territories. There is also a high proportion of aboriginal women among the victims of trafficking in human beings and other forms of violence and inhuman treatment.

Mr. Chairperson,

No country is immune to the problem of violence against women. Solving this problem requires a comprehensive approach and the combined efforts of all stakeholders. However, this is not about developing

ambitious plans or proclaiming so-called gender slogans. Even less is it about indulging corrupt criminal regimes that exterminate civilian populations, including their own. It is about working long and hard to address the root causes of violence and about the scrupulous fulfilment by participating States of their commitments.

Thank you for your attention.