



Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

Statement by Ireland at the Opening Session of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference,

26 September 2022

Mr Chair, distinguished Government and Civil Society representatives,

Ireland fully aligns with the statement of the EU and would like to add the following points.

Ireland expresses appreciation to the Polish Chair and to ODIHR for hosting the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. All 57 OSCE participating States recognised the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for peace, justice and well-being in the Helsinki Final Act almost fifty years ago. In the intervening years, we have built upon the Helsinki Final Act's comprehensive approach to security and put in place structures to help us all in advancing peace and security in our region. The OSCE autonomous institutions play a critical role in this regard, and Ireland thanks them for their ongoing important work.

Since 1993, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting hosted by ODIHR has been a central part of the fabric of our comprehensive approach to security, uniquely bringing together participating States, Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms in our region.

It is therefore regrettable that Russia blocked consensus on the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting this year. With its unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, Russia has contravened the foundational principles of the OSCE and the United Nations Charter as well as international human rights and humanitarian law. As each day passes, evidence of horrific violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Ukraine continues to grow.

As a committed member of the OSCE, as an elected member of the UN Security Council, and as the current President of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Ireland is working with EU and other partners to defend the international rules-based system at this most challenging time. Ireland is resolved to ensuring accountability for the serious breaches of international law that we are witnessing in our region.

History has taught us, repeatedly, that atrocity crimes do not occur in a vacuum. The OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report presented to the Permanent Council last week provided clear evidence of the link between internal repression of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the one hand, and external aggression and brutality on the other. The relevance and value of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security has never been clearer.



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The high level of engagement with this Conference demonstrates the determination across our region that Russia will not succeed in undermining our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Civil society makes a critical contribution to conflict prevention, the fight against impunity, and peacebuilding. The full, equal and meaningful participation of women, in particular, in civic space and in all decision-making processes is essential for sustainable peace.

Ireland extends deep appreciation to the civil society representatives and human rights defenders from across the OSCE region for your participation. Ireland looks forward to engaging with you over the next two weeks and hearing your perspectives on the implementation of the OSCE Human Dimension commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.