



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1374th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 19 May 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mayor Kushmenko, let me echo the words of my colleagues here today and thank you as well as conveying my deepest condolences to victims of this horrific atrocities committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine. We stand with Ukraine.

Iceland fully aligns herself with the statement delivered by the European Union but allow me Mr Chair to make a short remark in my national capacity on the humanitarian crisis, in particular with regard to the intensified risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation faced by refugees fleeing Ukraine, most of which are women and children.

In this regard I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretary General and Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, for the preventative approach taken and their important work in raising awareness on the issue and providing participating States with support. Human trafficking is but one horrible by-product of Russia's war and therefore the policy recommendations by Valiant Richey and his team are well received.

Let me express our deep gratitude to the OSCE institutions and structures engaged in one way or the other to address the multi-dimensional impacts of this war. Not least to the Polish Chairpersonship and ODIHR for organizing the second SHDM which took place earlier this week. The meeting was a crucial platform to discuss pressing human dimension issues relating to the war as well as to gain input directly from civil society.

We also stress our appreciation for the work of all actors engaged in responding to the humanitarian crisis, the unwavering solidarity of people all over the world, and the dedicated people and organizations working day and night for those in dire need.

To conclude I express Iceland's full and unwavering support to Ukraine and Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I thank you Mr. Chair.