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## ORAL STATEMENT

Item 10: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Oral Update on Ukraine

UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-sixth session  
22 February – 23 March 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its update. We reiterate our calls to the government of Ukraine to improve its response to domestic and gender-based violence, and to better address the issues of fair trial, non-discrimination and accountability for past abuses. We urge the de facto authorities in Russia-backed separatist-controlled Donbas and in Russia-occupied Crimea to end their widespread human rights violations, including their crackdown on dissenting voices.

We welcome positive steps by Ukraine, including the allocation of more resources to combat domestic and gender-based violence but urge it to ratify the Istanbul Convention and address the issue at a systemic level.

We note that the closure of three TV channels without judicial review and due process raises concerns over media freedom.

The authorities have not addressed most reported attacks by groups advocating discrimination against activists and marginalized groups. Those responsible for hate crimes against marginalized communities, such Roma and LGBTI, enjoy impunity.

So do perpetrators of conflict-related abuses on both sides in eastern Ukraine. The government continues to deny the past practice of secret prisons, enforced disappearances and torture, and not a single perpetrator has been identified or prosecuted. Russia-backed armed groups continue to carry out unlawful detention while effectively denying access for human rights monitors to the entire territory under their control, including places of detention.

Meanwhile, the closure of, or traffic reduction via, most checkpoints, especially by the de facto authorities, has profoundly impacted economic and social rights, including by separating entire families and preventing people in separatist-controlled territories from accessing pensions and social support.

In Russia-occupied Crimea, the authorities continue their pattern of arbitrary arrests, fabricated criminal cases and intimidation against activists. We urge Russia to allow access to, and cooperate with, OHCHR and to end the crackdown on rights and freedoms in Crimea.

Thank you, Madam President.