



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 13 November 2014

Mr Chairman,

We thank the Russian delegation for bringing up this issue. The rights of children are indeed a priority of my government. Our legislation is based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which both our countries are parties.

The guiding principle for Norwegian child welfare authorities is the best interest of the child. Taking a child away from the home, for a shorter or longer period, is always the last resort. There are a number of legal safeguards in this process, including free legal aid to the parents.

All child welfare cases are treated equally, irrespective of the citizenship of the family.

Norwegian law applies to everyone in Norway, including of course laws that protect the rights and best interest of children.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation reserves the right to return to this matter at a later date.

Thank you, Mr Chairman