

ENGLISH only  
**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**OSCE CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM  
VIENNA, 19 JUNE 2003**

Mme Chairperson,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for possibility to speak at this high level meeting and, of course, for organizing such a meeting. I represent the International League for Human Rights, an international NGO which has many partners and carries out several projects in independent countries of former Soviet Union. From 2000 we helped Russian anti-racist NGOs to prepare for participation in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban and to carry out follow-up activities to this conference.

In my opinion, within the context of fight against anti-semitism there are three main problems in the region, where we work.

First, there is often a lack of clear and precisely developed legislation, prohibiting anti-semitic statements, appeals and actions, defining them and stating punishment for them.

Second, we often see differences and even contradictions between statements at highest national level and practical situations at lower levels of state/government structures and in political life. This is especially important in big states with complex system of government, particularly in federal states.

In this respect I can give one example without any intention to blame any state or political figures. In the Russian Federation there were in recent years very positive statements against anti-semitism at the highest federal level. Nevertheless, we know instances when statements and even actions were made at lower levels, which contradicted these positive statements (for example, developments in the Krasnodar Krai in Southern Russia). Also, several well-known Russian political figures repeatedly made clearly anti-semitic statements without any consequences for them.

Third, we see a clear lack of consistent and persistent implementation of existing legislation, covering anti-semitic activities, by law enforcement bodies and judicial system. I would like to stress that impunity of perpetrators is one of the main factors contributing to spread of anti-semitism.

Thus, we call on OSCE:

1. To support the recommendations of the seminar convened by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, calling for the creation of a mechanism within OSCE to monitor and report publicly on implementation of the Copenhagen commitments re anti-semitism.
2. To request from the member-countries:
  - to control and stop open or implicit anti-semitic statements and initiatives in political life and at all levels of state structure, especially at provincial and local levels;
  - to undertake all necessary measures to implement existing laws through law enforcement bodies and courts and to stop impunity of perpetrators of anti-semitic acts.

Thank you.