

Recommendations on Combating Antisemitism and Facing the Denial of Antisemitism in the OSCE Region and in the Mediterranean Partner States

Working Session 13: Tolerance and non-discrimination II

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Introduction

Holocaust Denial has been often seen as one of the mayor problems regarding to contemporary antisemitism. Holocaust education programs have been implemented in several countries in recent years to tackle this problem. But what we can observe in the last years – especially since the second intifada – is that a new problem appeared. The Holocaust is now being used by people and organizations to attack the Jews. Being it by equating the Jews or Israelis to Nazis, attacking the Jews for talking 'too much' about the Holocaust or that the Jews would 'monopolize' the status as victims. In general antisemitism is often seen just as a problem of the past.

The denial of contemporary antisemitism in the OSCE region and in the Arab and/or Muslim world is a matter of concern. Be it by its denial by governments in the OSCE region or by non-government-organizations financed by OSCE member states. The promotion of hate speech and hate crime against Jews in the name of anti-Israel policies is a real matter of concern that have to be addressed seriously.

Recommendations

- The OSCE and OSCE member states should focus on the problem of denial of contemporary antisemitism in the OSCE region and promote further programs to educate on contemporary antisemitism.
- The OSCE should extent its cooperation with the Mediterranean partner states to combat contemporary antisemitism in these states and promote tolerance programs.
- The OSCE should take serious the problem of state driven antisemitism in countries like Iran which lead to hate crime and terrorism against Jews not just in Israel, but also in the OSCE region.