

Intervention by Suzette Bronkhorst of the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), addressed to the OSCE Conference on Antisemitism, day 2, June 20 2003, during Session 4: Information and awareness-raising: the role of the media in conveying and countering prejudice.

Madam chair, distinguished delegates,

Antisemitism on the Internet is a growing problem. Of all complaints made to the complaints bureau for discrimination on the Internet, the Dutch branch of INACH a third to half are about antisemitism and other bureaus in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland show more or less the same trend. Internet, which influence and impact, especially on the young, has grown to massive proportions, has become an environment that is successfully used by antisemites and others to disseminate hate, holocaust denial and racism, and to recruit young followers. Information on the net is not filtered and has no reality check. Almost 100 years after its creation, the infamous 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' is being recycled on the Net to reinforce the myth of Jewish World Domination. The amount of antisemitism that is published on the Internet on a daily basis is enormous. The poisonous story about Jews staying home during the 9/11 disaster gained momentum largely due to the Internet. Virtual reality has become a nursery for In Real Life hate and violence.

While cyber hate is international, it can only be tackled on a national basis using national and international legislation and treaties.

Therefore, we call upon the OSCE participating states to:

- Hold a supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on antisemitism as soon as possible with inclusion of –and special attention to the subject of cyber hate.
- Promote and support agencies or organizations that handle complaints, monitor, assess and counteract cyber hate, in particular antisemitism.
- Support the founding of such agencies.
- Promote a code which defines responsible and ethical conduct by Internet Providers.
- Sign and ratify the Council of Europe's additional Protocol to the Convention on cyber crime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems