



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Reports by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Tim Hanway
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 12, 2024

Rabbi Baker, Dr. Polak, and Ambassador Dağdelen Akgün, welcome back to the Permanent Council. Thank you for your excellent and informative reports.

The United States fully shares your commitment to combating discrimination and all forms of intolerance across the OSCE region. Your work remains vital, especially as we confront the alarming rise in antisemitism that we have witnessed since the October 7th, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel – including as is in Holocaust denial and distortion. Jewish communities throughout the world are contending with levels of uncertainty, insecurity, and danger not experienced since the Second World War. Media have reported on thousands of incidents involving vandalism or destruction of Jewish sites, and harassment of, threats against, and physical attacks on Jewish individuals.

Antisemitism constitutes a grave threat to democratic values, national security, and international stability. Russia, Iran, and other malign actors are trying to exploit antisemitism to sow division and distrust within and among democratic nations – this poses a threat to democracy itself. We applaud the 31 participating States that joined the United States and other stakeholders in endorsing the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism, launched in Buenos Aires last July. This was a historic achievement in the fight against antisemitism. We recognize Rabbi Baker's critical input in developing these Guidelines, which we encourage all participating States to endorse.

We also condemn the violence and hate that Muslims throughout the world too often face because of their ethnic or immigrant background or religious beliefs – and due to the ugly resurgence of Islamophobia in the wake of the devastating war in Gaza. Unfortunately, Muslims within the OSCE region frequently endure baseless fearmongering, blatant discrimination, harassment, and even violence in their everyday lives. We must mobilize to counter all forms of hate, discrimination, and bias against Muslim communities and to raise awareness about their heritage and invaluable contributions to our societies.

Racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance are global scourges that require global solutions. As we work to build an international coalition to defend and advance the human rights of members of minority groups and vulnerable populations, the global community should adopt an intersectional approach to address distinct challenges faced by people with multiple marginalized identities.

Promoting respect for the rights and dignity of all, including members of racial, ethnic, and Indigenous communities, including the Roma, people of African descent, as well as women and girls and those who identify as LGBTQI+ persons, is not about demanding preferential treatment or about creating new rights. It's about standing up for the very same dignity and rights that all people have by virtue of their being human.

###