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United States Mission to the OSCE

Taking Steps to Counter Antisemitism

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Darrell Owens
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 15, 2026

Antisemitism is not vanquished. It rages anew. It's reaching the worst levels globally since the end of World War II. The Combat Antisemitism Movement documented a staggering 107 percent increase in global incidences in 2024. Not 81 years ago, in 2024. These antisemitic incidents include: harassment, threats, vandalism, and violence. It is also Holocaust denial, it's distortion, it's rehabilitation in these historic narratives of Nazi collaborators, it's the manipulation of history within international organizations like the UN and the OSCE and elsewhere.

We, the United States, we, the international community, must remain unyielding, unapologetically committed to combating antisemitism not just in the United States but around the world— including here at the OSCE.

The OSCE's Berlin Declaration and related decisions rightly recognized antisemitism as "a threat to democracy, the values of civilization and, therefore, to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond." OSCE participating States committed to promote education, combat hate crimes, and "strive to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination in all fields of life."

At the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, I spoke at the plenary and we hosted a side-event on countering antisemitism and anti-Christian bias and I want to reiterate my call here.

Let me be direct about where we stand. Thirty-six participating States have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism. Thirty-seven have endorsed the U.S.-led Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism. Those numbers represent real progress—but they also mean that roughly a third of this organization's membership has not yet taken this step. That gap is not abstract. It affects real communities, in real countries, every day that it persists.

Data matters too. Only 19 of 57 participating States reported 2024 antisemitic hate crime data to ODIHR. Without that data, ODIHR cannot design the targeted law enforcement training, educational programming, or community security measures that actually protect people. As of the last ODHIR report in 2024, only 19 participating States actually fulfill point #6 of the 2004 Berlin Declaration to "collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic crimes ... [and] report such information periodically" to ODIHR. Our Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Kaploun raised this issue in February at the Chair's antisemitism conference in St. Gallen. What progress have

we made since then? Every delegation should ask a simple question: is my government reporting this data? If not, why not, and what will it take to start?

We are not asking for statements. We have had statements. We are asking for the kind of institutional commitment that outlasts any single conference, any single administration, any single news cycle. We ask participating States to be ready to announce concrete commitments before the Ministerial in December.

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