

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Monday, 26 September 2016

Working Session 11

Statement by the Community Security Trust (CST)

My organisation, the Community Security Trust, pioneered the measurement and classification of antisemitic incidents according to criminal justice norms in the UK, and we are regarded as a model of best practice in this area.

We have sought to spread our methodology and assist other faith and minority communities, most notably through our partnership in Facing Facts, Facing Facts Together, and Facing Facts Online, civil society initiatives funded by the European Commission, and latterly by Facebook, Google and Twitter, about which I spoke at last year's HDIM.

We recognise that all too often non-governmental organisations rely on un evidenced reporting of hate crimes against their communities, and that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies require the recording of incidents and crimes according to criminal justice standards employing comparable standards and classifications.

Recognising that many of our own Jewish communities still lack the capacity to record antisemitic incidents to these standards, we are now pursuing two initiatives.

The first is to persuade governments and the international governmental organisations to recognise and recommend the Working Definition of Antisemitism, which was agreed last year by the thirty one member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. This definition was originally requested and published by the European Union Monitoring Centre, assists law enforcement agencies to understand the nature of contemporary antisemitism.

The second is an initiative by some leading Jewish monitoring agencies and social research institutes who have been brought together by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, to produce a multi-layered tool to measure antisemitism effectively and to such standards.

These initiatives are sorely needed now as Jewish communities face increasing threats to their security.

Thank you