



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE  
1408<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**26 January 2023**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join others in welcoming Ambassador Ann Bernes, President of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, to the Permanent Council today. Thank you, Ambassador Bernes, for your remarks this morning, and for helping us to ensure that this issue remains high on our Council's agenda and in our minds.

In observing International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember and pay tribute to the more than six million Jews who were systematically persecuted and murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. We also remember the innumerable Roma and Sinti, LGBTQ2+ people, people with disabilities, and dissidents who were persecuted and killed by the Nazis and their collaborators in horrific crimes against humanity.

The Holocaust is a stark reminder of the dangers of allowing antisemitism, xenophobia, prejudice, and discrimination to spread unchallenged. Antisemitism is still a lived experience for Jewish communities in Canada and around the world, including across the OSCE region. Its new and resurgent forms require constant vigilance and action.

The Government of Canada remains unwavering in its commitment to challenge antisemitism, hatred, and racism wherever and whenever they occur. Canada supports the IHRA's work to combat antisemitism and to strengthen, advance, and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance, and to encourage the broad adoption of IHRA's working definition of antisemitism. In June 2022, Canada announced that it will double its annual contribution to the IHRA.

We also strongly support the work being done by ODIHR to counter antisemitism, and we have been proud to support ODIHR's Turning Words into Action to Address Intolerance (WIA) project. We look forward to participating in the upcoming Conference on addressing Antisemitism organized by the Chair-in-Office in Skopje on February 6-7.

Dr. Kathryn Meyer, Executive Secretary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, also spoke powerfully to this Council last January, with a particular focus on the dangers of Holocaust distortion. We must steadfastly counter irresponsible comparisons – such as those made by Russia’s foreign minister earlier this month suggesting that the West was seeking a “final solution” to “the Russian question.” These comments were utterly disrespectful to victims and survivors of the Holocaust. That the Russian delegation has just chosen to engage in further Holocaust distortion under this item and in this chamber today is deeply saddening. Canada strongly condemns Russia’s weaponization of disinformation to justify its war in Ukraine, including through false accusations of Nazism and neo-Nazism. Putin’s claim to “de-Nazify” Ukraine, against a democratically elected government with a Jewish president, is repugnant and a clear example of Holocaust distortion.

We all have a responsibility to stop the seeds of intolerance and hate from taking root or spreading in our communities, our country, and our world. By confronting and learning from our past, we can build a more just and inclusive future for everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.