



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

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23 October 2006

ENGLISH only

Conference Services

**2nd OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting “Education to promote Mutual Respect
and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust
Dubrovnik, Croatia
23 to 24 October 2006**

SESSION III

Please find attached the presentation by Ms. Kathrin Meyer, Adviser on Anti-Semitism Issues for ODIHR, OSCE Observer to the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, Chair of the Working Group Holocaust Memorial Days.

	<p style="text-align: right;"></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Holocaust Education and Remembrance in the OSCE Region</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Education to promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kathrin Meyer, Adviser on Anti-Semitism Issues, ODIHR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dubrovnik, 23-24 October 2006</p> <hr/>
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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
On behalf of the ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme, I
would like to give you an overview about the ODIHR's activities and the
implementation process in the field of Holocaust Education and Remembrance in
the OSCE Region.

I will start with a few words on the background of the fact that the OSCE as the
world's largest regional security organisation is involved in the field of Holocaust
Remembrance and Education.

In 2002 the 56 participating States of the OSCE from Europe, Central Asia and
North America reacted to the dramatic increase of racist, xenophobic and anti-
Semitic acts throughout the region with several high level conferences and
Ministerial Decisions on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination.

In these Declarations the Participating states acknowledged the need for a
specific approach to improve: data collection, legislation, training and education.

	<p style="text-align: right;"></p> <hr/> <p>With the Berlin Declaration the Participating States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reacted to the rise of Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region▪ Recognized that Anti-Semitism has assumed new forms and expressions▪ Acknowledged that Anti-Semitism poses a threat to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• democracy• the values of civilization• to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond <hr/>
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The ODIHR's mandate in the field of Holocaust Remembrance is based on several Ministerial the Decisions and the Declaration that came out of the Berlin conference on Anti-Semitism in 2004. At this conference the participating States recognized that

Anti-Semitism has assumed new forms and expressions and that Anti-Semitism poses a threat to democracy, the values of civilization and to the overall security in the OSCE region and beyond.

The same importance is given to other forms of intolerance and discrimination, recognized in other OSCE declarations.

 	<hr/> <p>OSCE Participating States committed themselves to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Educational programmes for combating Anti-Semitism▪ Remembrance of and education about the tragedy of the Holocaust▪ The importance of respect for all ethnic and religious groups <hr/>
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With the Berlin Declaration the OSCE participating States committed themselves (inter alia) to promote educational programs to combat Anti-Semitism, to promote the remembrance of and education on the Holocaust and to promote respect for all ethnic and religious groups.

 	<hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">OSCE</p> <h2>ODIHR Tasks</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In its Maastricht Decision (4/03), the OSCE Ministerial Council tasked the ODIHR:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ to promote best practices➤ disseminate lessons learned in the fight against intolerance and discrimination➤ to support participating States to implement their commitments <hr/>
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The ODIHR was tasked to

to promote best practices

disseminate lessons learned in the fight against intolerance and discrimination

to support participating States to implement their commitments

Recognizing that Anti-Semitism poses a threat to the overall security in the region compels us to identify all different forms of this phenomenon. While the Holocaust was based on anti-Semitism, we can see today that Holocaust Denial or the diminishing of the Holocaust is one form of Anti-Semitism that occurs more and more often and is used as a justification for anti-Semitic acts, discrimination and hate crimes. That is why these two fields are strongly connected for us and that is why our office is involved in the field of Holocaust Education, we want to assist with the implementation.



Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism

- Evaluation: Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region: An Overview and Analysis of Educational Approaches

country by country overview

http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2006/04/18712_en.pdf



In order to fulfil our mandate the ODIHR started the work in this field with an evaluation. We developed the study: Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region: An Overview and Analysis of Educational Approaches. This study gives a general analytical overview of ongoing activities in the OSCE region on Holocaust Education and also provides a country by country overview. It also analyses the need for specific educational programmes to address contemporary Anti-Semitism.

With this study the ODIHR:

- evaluated existing initiatives in the OSCE States
 - identified those that could be developed successfully elsewhere
 - identified good practices to support future efforts by OSCE states and civil society.
 - identified gaps and areas where teaching about Holocaust and anti-Semitism need to be strengthened
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The analysis of the 54 responses:

- The Interest in the history of the Holocaust is growing in the region
 - The Holocaust is a topic of history lessons but also in literature, languages, civic education, ethics and theology, extra curricular activities
 - 33 participating States commemorate Holocaust Memorial Days
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	<p style="text-align: right;"></p> <hr/> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Obstacles to Holocaust Education</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lack of official directives specifically related to Holocaust education▪ Lack of appropriate teaching material▪ Lack of teacher trainings in many OSCE Countries <hr/>
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The following obstacles were identified

	<p style="text-align: right;">OSCE</p> <hr/> <h2>Recommendations</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Holocaust Education should be implemented in each participating State and needs to be strengthened in many▪ Contemporary Anti-Semitism cannot be sufficiently addressed by Holocaust education, it should be acknowledged as an issue of itself▪ Teacher Trainings should be implemented in the OSCE States and supported by the governments▪ Sufficient teaching materials should be developed▪ Cooperation within the region between educators and exchange of experience <hr/>
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The Study provides therefore comprehensive recommendations.

Please allow me to highlight a few of them

	<p style="text-align: right;">OSCE</p> <hr/> <h2>Implementation by the ODIHR</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establishment of close co-operation with key international organizations and development of joint assistance projects to support implementation in participating States➤ Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research➤ Yad Vashem➤ Anne Frank House Amsterdam➤ United Nations <hr/>
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In order to follow our own recommendations we established close co-operation with key international organizations, such as the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, Yad Vashem, the Anne Frank House Amsterdam and the United Nations. With those partners we developed joint assistance projects to support the implementation in the OSCE region (and beyond).

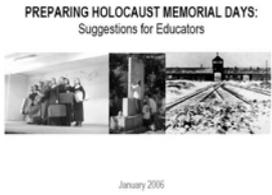
	<p style="text-align: right;">OSCE</p> <hr/> <h2>ODIHR Activities</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Educational Material:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators in cooperation with Yad Vashem➤ Teaching Material to address Anti-Semitism in cooperation with the Anne Frank House <hr/>
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To follow our mandate to assist the implementation and to give very practical assistance to the States in the field of Holocaust Remembrance but also in order to disseminate good practices, the ODIHR started to develop teaching tools on contemporary Anti-Semitism and on Holocaust Memorial days.



ODIHR Activities – Educational Material

- Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators





I would like to give you some details about the suggestions for educators on Holocaust memorial days.

This document has been circulated to you today, so you can get an impression how the suggestions look like. These suggestions have been launched by the OSCE's Chair in Office the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs during the celebration on January 27th in Brussels.



Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators

Developed in cooperation between
ODIHR, Yad Vashem and national
experts from 13 countries:

- Austria, Sweden, the Netherlands,
Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Lithuania,
United Kingdom, Russian
Federation, Ukraine, Germany and
Israel
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 	<hr/> <p>Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Available in 8 Languages: English, Russian, French, Dutch, Italian, Hungarian, Croatian, Polish ▪ Adopted by the UN <hr/>
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The ODIHR provided the English, Russian and Polish versions. The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries of Education in Italy, Hungary and Croatia provided us with the other translations.

Since the UN designated January 27th as the Holocaust Memorial Day the ODIHR and the UN established a close cooperation. Links to both ODIHR documents, the study on Holocaust Education and Anti-Semitism and the suggestions for educators are linked on the UN website and the suggestions for HMD are being distributed to UN public information centers worldwide.



ODIHR Activities – Educational Material

- Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators





Our suggestions for educators highlight really amazing initiatives of schools, educators and communities on Holocaust memorial days from 12 countries so far.

All over Europe groups of students visit authentic sites of former death or concentration camps on that day, others perform plays dealing with the Holocaust, some read the names of the victims from their city or region, and some conduct local research on the Jewish community in their region before the Holocaust. In some countries school classes adopt Jewish cemeteries or monuments dedicated to the Holocaust. Students all over the world meet with Holocaust Survivors and listen to their stories not only on Holocaust memorial days.

These are just a few out of almost countless examples that might give you an impression, how many different activities could be undertaken by remembering those millions of men, women and children who perished during the Holocaust. I hope that these examples from our suggestions for educators will not only serve as an inspiration for activities on Holocaust memorial days, but also as an encouragement to start remembrance of the Holocaust where it is not commemorated so far. We are convinced that the remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust has an important influence on young people, they learn from that experience and they will make a difference in today's world. We would like to encourage more governments to send us initiatives from their countries and to translate those guidelines and to make them available to educators in their countries.

We would like to stress, that the ODIHR is happy to cooperate with you, and we are ready to give advice, share experience and assist in the implementation of Holocaust remembrance activities.