

One of the reasons for actual impunity of racists in many new European countries as regards criminal anti-Semitic abuses, is the absence of race hate crime legislation in our law-books. It's true that, as often as not, good new legal norms stay mostly dormant, so we have to campaign for their practical implementation. But law-enforcement agencies and judiciary themselves often insist that they are unable to distinguish between a criminal manifestation of anti-Semitism and an act of hooliganism. So first you must have the appropriate laws.

We suggest that this OSCE Conference recommends that the states initiate the adoption of respective laws introducing a "hate crime" definition and providing for effective legal protection of their citizens from racially motivated crimes.

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