

**Statement by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Lawyers' Committee  
for Human Rights**

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**OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, Vienna, June 19-20, 2003**

**Session 4: Information and awareness-raising – The role of the media in conveying and  
countering prejudice**

Madame Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I speak on behalf of Human Rights Watch, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, and  
Amnesty International.

As international human rights nongovernmental organizations, an important part of our work  
is to raise awareness about, and trigger action to address, human rights violations worldwide.

Recognizing anti-Semitism as a serious human rights violation, we also recognize our own  
responsibility to take on this issue as part of our work. It should not be left to Jewish groups  
alone to highlight this issue and to appeal to the international community to address it. We  
are firmly committed to joining their ongoing efforts and to helping to bring problems of anti-  
Semitism into the overall human rights discourse.

We welcome the OSCE's holding a specific meeting on this long-neglected issue. We hope  
that it will not be a one-time occurrence, but rather the beginning of a long-term, sustained  
effort on the part of participating states – and OSCE as an institution – to monitor and combat  
discrimination and violence faced by Jewish communities throughout the OSCE region.

We will eagerly await the conclusions of this meeting, and those of the series of other,  
upcoming OSCE meetings in the framework of which anti-Semitism will be addressed – the  
July supplementary human dimension implementation meeting on religious freedom, the  
September conference on racism and intolerance, and the October Human Dimension  
Implementation Meeting in Warsaw – to see what concrete measures participating states are  
prepared to commit themselves to in order to combat anti-Semitism in their respective  
countries.

In this context, let me bring your attention to the recommendations put forward to this  
conference by the seminar organized by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of  
Human Rights earlier this week, which call on participating states to, inter alia, reaffirm their  
commitments made in Copenhagen in 1990 to condemn racial and ethnic hatred, including  
anti-Semitism, and to undertake effective follow up measures to demonstrate these  
commitments in practice. These recommendations provide a number of concrete ideas for  
specific steps that participating states should undertake. We call on the OSCE and its  
participating states to take these into account and to leave this meeting with a firm  
commitment to combat anti-Semitism.

Thank you.