

**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE**

**OSCE CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM
BERLIN**

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**THE “BERLIN PROCESS” AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM
“THE FOUR MORES”**

**STATEMENT
BY:**

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Distinguished Ministers, Parliamentarians and Guests.

As an Officer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and a member of the Canadian Delegation, I am privileged to address you in my dual capacity at this Conference.

Perhaps we should remind ourselves about the origins of this specific conference.

Two years ago in July, 2002 a few blocks away from these Foreign Ministry Offices, here in Berlin, at the historic Reichstag Building, where in 1933 the infamous laws against Jews was promulgated, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in convocation at its Annual Meeting and passed a unanimous Resolution to condemn Anti-Semitism in all of its recent manifestations. That Resolution went further and urged all Member States to organize follow up meetings to explore effective measures, laws, regulations, practices and policies to prevent Anti-Semitism. This Resolution was initiated by Gert Weissenkirchen of the German Parliament and Christopher Smith of the American Congress, aided by Ben Cardin and Alcee Hastings of the United States Congress, Barbara Haering of the Swiss Parliament and myself of the Canadian Senate, all of us officers of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In effect, the Resolution urged all 55 Member States of the OSCE to launch a process to explore and implement effective measures against Anti-Semitism pursuant to the 1990 Paris Charter and numerous other international treaties.

Since the 1975 Helsinki Process, the process that gave birth to the OSCE, did not start or end in one day. So the fight against the scourge of Anti-Semitism will not end in one day! Our deliberations today are also part of the process of public and private education and initiatives against Anti-Semitism which we might aptly call the “Berlin Process.”

Since Berlin Annual Meeting two years ago, the OSCE Parliamentarians and Ministers have held meetings, seminars and foras on Anti-Semitism in cities across the OSCE Space, including Copenhagen, Porto, Paris, Maastricht, Warsaw, twice in Vienna, twice in Washington, Rotterdam and once again here in Berlin.

For me, there is no new or old Anti-Semitism. There is just Anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is simply the hatred of Jews – the hatred of the “Other.”

What is new, the modern industrialization of Anti-Semitism brought about by the convergence and pervasiveness of the mass media around the globe.

Even Canada, my own peaceful progressive, country is not immuned.

Across Canada, in the last three years, four Synagogues have been scorched in four provinces. Several weeks ago a Jewish Children’s Library was fire bombed, glass broken in Jewish institutions and graffiti smeared across Jewish institutions, tombstones overturned in a number of cities and threats of violence against Jews. All this in Canada, in my Canada, in the 21st Century.

After deafening silence from all leaders, this last outburst of Anti-Semitic incidents finally woke up the entire community.

The entire spectrum of the community from Police, Religious leaders, City, Provincial and Federal leaders from all parties, spoke up with one thundering voice, echoing the Mayor of Toronto, that those who perpetrated such acts have no place in Toronto, in Canada.

Now, The Standing Committee on Human Rights of the Canadian Senate on April 19th just last week embarked on a historic study of Anti-Semitism in Canada. I was privileged that day to be the first witness. The Committee's mandate is to study the OSCE Resolution passed in Berlin which is the subject matter of this Conference.

What is new and dangerous about Anti-Semitism, is the crucial converging role of the media and the Internet that converges and allows Anti-Semitism to quickly spread and proliferate. The media, in this way has become the message.

As Parliamentarians and organizations of civil society our task is simple yet complicated. We must carefully and skillfully root out this endemic problem which threatens our civic fabric. We must transplant the antique thought process of Anti-Semitism with this "Berlin Process" where Parliaments, compose of all parties, and all governments, unite with their peoples, in one voice, and say enough is enough.

What is next? The OSCE led by our French colleagues is planning a meeting to consider the Internet in Paris in June. Next the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will meet at its Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in early July. The results of this and the Paris meetings will no doubt be actively explored in Edinburgh. Then the Ministerial Council must activate a concrete follow up plan! We need to implement an action plan which allows all Member States to converge their ideas of how best to implement the OSCE Resolution. The follow up plan could be labeled "the Four Mores".

1. More statistics. We must keep track, State by State, region by region, of the Anti-Semitic incidents.
2. More law enforcement. We need more specialized law enforcement directed towards the complex matter of prosecuting hate incidents.
3. More education. We need more and specialized public and private education at all levels. Hate is a learned experience.
4. More restraint in the media. It is clear that the media must become aware that it has a special role to play ensuring that its message is not tainted with hate or incitement to violence.

Anti-Semitism is not a natural part of the human condition. Anti-Semitism is taught. We need to teach the teachers. Elie Weisel who spoke so eloquently yesterday recounted in a

private meeting, based on his intensive analysis of the anatomy of hate found that a child of 3 be taught to love or to hate!

So education of the young is essential.

May I take this opportunity to thank all Parliaments and especially the leadership role taken by the German Parliament, the German Government and its Foreign Minister, Mr. Joschka Fischer and of course, the OSCE Secretariat.

This meeting is not the end, but as Winston Churchill once suggested “the beginning of the beginning”. To eradicate once and for all, the ancient scourge of Anti-Semitism which has no place, no corner, no crevice in any civic society.

As we are told, “Hate may start with Jews.” “It never ends with Jews!” Let’s stop the “start”.

May I again thank all of my colleagues at the OSCE for their active support and their continued dedicated efforts to make the OSCE Space an oasis of tolerance and respect for the “Other” in the world.

Let us begin!