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Addressing Anti-Semitism through Education

Guidelines for Policymakers

A new UNESCO and OSCE co-publication takes up the challenge of educating learners to resist contemporary anti-Semitism at a time when the issue is becoming ever more crucial around the world. It suggests concrete ways to address anti-Semitism, counter prejudice and promote tolerance through education, by designing programmes based on a human rights framework, global citizenship education, inclusiveness and gender equality. It also provides policymakers with tools and guidance to ensure that education systems build the resilience of young people to anti-Semitic ideas and ideologies, violent extremism and all forms of intolerance and discrimination, through critical thinking and respect for others.

Focus of the publication on addressing anti-Semitism through education:

- Explains the complex nature of anti-Semitism: its manifestations, characteristics, variations and impact;
- Outlines, within a human rights framework, preventive policy principles and learning objectives for addressing anti-Semitism through education;
- Demonstrates how responses to anti-Semitism can be integrated comprehensively and seamlessly within existing educational approaches, such as global citizenship education;
- Describes the main areas of action, and provides guidance, on policies, practices and pedagogies to introduce education about anti-Semitism into the education system;
- Discusses ways to deal with anti-Semitism in educational institutions, as a precondition for learning, and to protect and defend all students' human rights;
- Explains why teaching about human rights, including the right to information, to freedom of religion or belief, to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, is central to countering anti-Semitism;
- Includes policy options for addressing anti-Semitism in various educational settings, and for strengthening media and information literacy to recognize and reject anti-Semitism online; and
- Presents good practices that can be used to build the capacity of government officials and educators to recognize the impact of unchallenged anti-Semitism on Jewish communities and the broader society, and adapt initiatives to the local or national context.

To address anti-Semitism, policymakers can:

- Acknowledge the extent and scope of anti-Semitism as a problem to be addressed through education systems;
- Familiarize educators with anti-Semitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories, and their social and political functions, so they can identify and respond to them appropriately;
- Ensure that education systems support human rights, cultivate respect and inclusion, and provide safe and supportive learning environments for all young women and men, including Jews, and that they do not exacerbate the problem;
- Integrate anti-Semitism as a human rights topic through policies and gender mainstreamed pedagogical approaches that promote democracy, peace, gender equality, using global citizenship education as a framework;
- Promote approaches that build students' resilience to prejudice and stereotypes as a long-term goal, by developing students' critical and reflective thinking skills and by systematically deconstructing gender and other stereotypes;
- Incorporate teaching about anti-Semitism into education about the Holocaust in ways that also make clear the links to contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism;
- Provide professional in-service and pre-service training opportunities for teachers, utilize research-based teacher-training resources on anti-Semitism;
- Review curricula, textbooks and other educational materials to ensure that human rights, inclusiveness, and gendered research and approaches are reflected;
- Develop media and information literacy skills to foster students' resilience to manipulation, prejudice, stereotypes, and conspiracy theories;
- Promote channels of communication and partnerships between schools and representatives of Jewish and other communities, NGOs, museums, memorials, libraries and other relevant institutions;
- Develop legislation, procedures and accessible anti-Semitic incident reporting mechanisms that ensure protection of, and respect for, human rights in educational institutions;
- Strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions to ensure a safe environment for all staff and learners, including Jewish students or teachers, and to address complaints of human rights violations;
- Ensure co-operation between different ministries by establishing high-level mechanisms to address anti-Semitism; and
- Assist lawmakers in establishing cross-party parliamentary groups dedicated to addressing anti-Semitism and developing sound legislation relevant to education.



For detailed information about ODIHR's hate crime initiatives and to view its full range of resources and publications, please visit:
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