



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE
ON TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

As delivered by Ambassador Harald Neple, Tirana
21 May 2013

Session 3 - Combating anti-Semitism

- As clearly pointed out by the two speakers, the hatred and intolerance of anti-Semitism remain powerful and significant realities in many parts of the OSCE area today, including in my own country, Norway.
- In this connection I would like to refer to a study by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung which clearly establishes widespread anti-semitic sentiments in many countries in Europe. 17 % of respondents in the Netherlands and 70 % in Poland think that Jews seek to benefit from the Holocaust. Others have referred to the FRA study. I would like to pick up another important aspect, which is that three quarters of the Jewish respondents who had been victims of anti-Semitic harassment, did not report this to the police or any other organization. Building trust, dialogue, active investigation and prosecution, combined with reporting mechanisms is necessary as many others have underlined here today. So what can be done to combat these trends? First, we must as Dr Silva stressed, persuade the international community that anti-Semitism is not just a "Jewish problem". It is a human problem.
- We must also recognize that the Holocaust did not start with the death camps and

crematoriums - that's where it culminated. It started with words and with the demonization of an entire group of people, while society just turned the other cheek or even assisted in the deportation.

- It is also more important than ever for our politicians and leaders to unequivocally condemn all manifestations of anti-Semitism, as well as refrain from making discriminatory statements themselves.
- The best way to defeat anti-Semitism is to show that we, as a society, stand united in the global fight against hatred, intolerance and anti-Semitism. This is the lesson that Europe must learn in order to avoid repeating mistakes of its past.