



United Kingdom Delegation

To the Organisation for Security and
Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Vienna

The OSCE Berlin Declaration

Earlier this year, the UK parliament's All-party Parliamentary Committee on Anti-Semitism, published a comprehensive report on anti-Semitism, which shows that anti-Semitism is sadly very much alive in the UK, and manifesting itself in new ways.

We believe that this is an extremely important report, and we will ensure that it leads to renewed effort to rid our country of this oldest form of hatred.

The British Government has committed to working with the Committee and domestic NGOs to provide an effective follow-up to the Report and the Government's response.

One of the recommendations made in the Report was that the Government reports to Parliament on the implementation of the Berlin Declaration. Given the wide range of international commitments that the UK has entered into, and that that the Berlin Declaration was formally endorsed by an OSCE Ministerial Council decision, it was felt more appropriate to report to this meeting.

While the focus of the Committee's inquiry was on anti-Semitism, much of what is contained in our response is applicable across all forms of discrimination.

Mr Chairman, I will refrain from reading out the detail of our response here today. It has been circulated to all delegates via the Secretariat, annexed to this speaking note.

1. Strive to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination in all fields of life;

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is investigating the relationship between arrests and prosecutions and is examining incitement to racial hatred prosecutions in an attempt to reassure the Jewish community that hate crimes are dealt with effectively.

We have one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world for protecting people from discrimination or persecution on the basis of race or faith, and this has been significantly tightened in recent years. We have robust police and CPS policies, and have in recent years strengthened the legal framework against racial discrimination and the penalties for criminal offences such as incitement to racial hatred, racially or religiously aggravated assault and criminal damage.

In January 2005 the Government launched its strategy *Improving Opportunity and Strengthening Society* to increase race equality and community cohesion. It brings together practical measures across Government to improve opportunities for all - helping to ensure that a person's ethnicity or race is not a barrier to their success. It clearly outlines the Government's policy to give greater emphasis to the importance of strengthening society, by helping people

from different backgrounds come together, supporting people who contribute to society and taking a stand against racists and extremists.

2. Promote, as appropriate, educational programmes for combating anti-Semitism;

The 2006 Education Act places a duty on governing bodies of schools in England to promote community cohesion and for the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) to report on the contribution made by each school towards community cohesion. Guidance to support schools in fulfilling this new duty to promote community cohesion (which is due to come into effect and be inspected by Ofsted from September 2007) will recommend linking as a way of promoting community cohesion. It will encourage schools to form links with other schools and the wider community and include case studies of existing good practice across a range of schools.

Examples of good practice can be found at
www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/faithschools

Anti-Racism Education in the Curriculum

The Government believes that there currently exists a sufficient range of curricular opportunities to develop an understanding of anti-racism including the history of anti-Semitism, but is always open to considering specific suggestions for changes.

All Key Stages of the History curriculum contain requirements that provide opportunities to value diversity, challenge racism – including anti-Semitism – and understand the positive impacts of migration. In addition, Key Stage 3 pupils are explicitly required to study the Holocaust as part of the History programmes of study. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority provides Schemes of Work to consolidate this teaching. Citizenship Education at Key Stages 3 and 4 also ask pupils to develop an understanding of the diversity of national religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

In addition, through the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social and Health Education, pupils explore the effects of all stereotypes, prejudice, bullying, racism and discrimination and how to challenge these effectively.

The National Curriculum Order for History gives opportunities in the Focus Statement at Key Stage 3 to study aspects of *The Twentieth Century World*. Pupils should be taught about aspects of twentieth-century world history. They should be taught about some major events and developments that shaped the modern world, through studies of the impact of world war and changes in twentieth-century society.

Guidance on anti-racist education

Schools already have a legislative duty to comply with the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 that requires 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups'.

In March 2006, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) developed a resource for schools on tackling racist bullying. This includes advice on preventing racist bullying through the school curriculum including key concepts in all curriculum subjects and suggestions for classroom activities. A range of guidance to schools on anti-racism will support this. The Equality Act 2006 extends discrimination law and the approach of schools towards anti-

Semitism will be clarified by forthcoming guidance on the reporting and recording of racist incidents. The Department is also developing new anti-bullying guidance that will include a discrete section on anti-Semitism.

The Scottish Executive concurs and various initiatives are in place within Scottish schools and through the *One Scotland, Many Cultures* campaign.

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland is introducing a revised curriculum from September 2007 to 2009/10. The revised curriculum aims to better prepare young people for life and work and includes a new strand on citizenship education to enable all pupils to develop attitudes of tolerance and respect. Pupils will study issues such as diversity and inclusion, both locally and globally, and the causes of racism and ways of managing conflict and promoting inclusion.

3. Promote remembrance of and, as appropriate, education about the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the importance of respect for all ethnic and religious groups;

Government pledged £1.5 million in support of the Holocaust Educational Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" course for teachers and sixth form students. This funding will enable the Trust to send up to 6000 students each year to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This means two students from every secondary school and Further Education College in the UK. Additionally, on 17 April 2007, the Government announced that the Treasury and The Pears Foundation would each contribute £250,000 in a three year commitment to the Holocaust Educational Trust to administer teacher training. The Government also supports the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, with an annual grant of £500,000 to meet the costs of the yearly commemoration.

Scottish Ministers have supported a separate Scottish Holocaust Memorial Day annually since 2001 so that communities could mobilise around an event for Scotland. Scotland also hosted the main UK event in 2003 in Edinburgh in partnership with the Home Office and Edinburgh City Council. In 2005 the Scottish Executive agreed to provide a contribution of up to £750,000 for a Holocaust Memorial Museum in partnership with the Scottish Jewish Community and East Renfrewshire Council. It is envisioned as a permanent exhibition that could also be a learning resource for schools and other educational institutions. Planning is still in the early stages but a provisional site has now been identified within the East Renfrewshire local authority area.

As part of Holocaust Memorial Day 2006 the Scottish Executive provided funding for an exhibition titled "Testimony". This was a photographic exhibition, which contained images from Auschwitz, and the annual "March of the Living" that takes place to remember the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. This exhibition was further developed as a lasting legacy for Scotland. "Testimony" is currently collating testimonies of Holocaust survivors and it is hoped the full exhibition and testimonies will be placed within the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

4. Combat hate crimes, which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda in the media and on the Internet;

The UK Government strongly believes that a press free from state intervention is fundamental to our democracy. We do not therefore seek to interfere in what a newspaper or magazine chooses to publish.

But this does not mean that the press may publish just what they like. They must abide by the law. Our laws against incitement to racial hatred cover all newspapers, including foreign-based newspapers on sale in the UK. These

laws also apply to material which people in the UK make available over the Internet.

The press have also chosen to restrict their historic right to freedom of expression by signing up to a Code of Practice, overseen by the Press Complaints Commission. The Code contains clauses on, amongst other things, discrimination and accuracy.

The UK's broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, is independent of Government. Its broadcasting code prohibits discriminatory treatment or language on the grounds of (amongst other things) race, religion or belief.

In addition, Ofcom's code sets out a requirement on broadcasters to ensure that the religious views and beliefs of those belonging to a particular religion or religious denomination must not be subject to abusive treatment. Furthermore, the code prohibits the inclusion of material likely to encourage or incite the commission of crime or lead to disorder.

The BBC's Charter and Agreement contain equivalent provisions.

5. Encourage and support international organization and NGO efforts in these areas;

We have been strong supporters of the OSCE's tolerance programme and the Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representatives on tolerance issues. The UK contributed £50,000 to support the work of the Personal Representatives and have welcomed all three into the United Kingdom.

The UK has actively supported the OSCE's conferences on anti-Semitism, and on tolerance issues more broadly. UK Government Ministers have consistently led our delegations, which have consisted of a broad mix of experts, NGOs, faith community representatives and officials.

6. Collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic crimes, and other hate crimes, committed within their territory, report such information periodically to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and make this information available to the public;

The Home Office is currently reviewing data reported by police forces to the Department. The Office of Criminal Justice Reform is currently reviewing the minimum dataset published annually by the Home Office under section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act. Government is also working with the police to identify, nationally, better and more consistent ways of collecting and managing data on hate crimes including antisemitic incidents and crimes. This should be in place by 2008-09.

Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) and the Crown Office in Scotland are currently looking at ways to record racial and religiously aggravated incidents by specific categories.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland currently monitors and responds to the five categories of Hate Crime (including hate incidents) i.e. racial, sectarian, faith/religion, disability and homophobic/transphobic. Monitoring and recording of religion/faith crimes occur under a single heading and is not further categorised into the respective religion or faith. To date such recording has not raised any areas of concern or difficulties to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in their response to dealing effectively and efficiently with hate crimes, including those motivated by faith/religion.

The UK is happy to respond to requests from ODIHR to report information on hate crimes, and has done so on a number of occasions.

7. Endeavour to provide the ODIHR with the appropriate resources to accomplish the tasks agreed upon in the Maastricht Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;

The UK has long been an admirer of ODIHR's excellent work and has consistently supported its budget allocations.

8. Work with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to determine appropriate ways to review periodically the problem of anti-Semitism;

Officials from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office regularly meet members of the UK's delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We discuss a number of issues, including the OSCE's work on tolerance.

9. Encourage development of informal exchanges among experts in appropriate fora on best practices and experiences in law enforcement and education.

The UK supports ODIHR's successful Combating Hate Crime Police Training Programme and has seconded a senior police officer with relevant experience to this programme for several years.