



***OSCE Conference on  
Anti-Semitism and on  
Other Forms of  
Intolerance: Session  
Number Three***

The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights (JBI) of the American Jewish Committee conducted a research study which examined the implementation of the commitments regarding discrimination made at the 1990 Copenhagen Human Dimension Meeting and endorsed by heads of state in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. JBI published “After the Promise: Keeping OSCE Commitments to Combat Anti-Semitism” on the eve of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conference on Anti-Semitism in Berlin in April of 2004 based on this research study.

The general recommendations of the “After the Promise” report were that OSCE states should:

- Comply with their Copenhagen Commitments by adopting domestic legislation and enforcing it vigorously;
- Establish systems of monitoring incidents of anti-Semitism in each country;
- Link educational programs, including both Holocaust education and general tolerance education, to focus on fighting contemporary anti-Semitism; and
- Establish a special representative on combating anti-Semitism within the OSCE.

In our update to the 2004 report “After the Promise”, JBI presents a review of measures taken by Spain and recommendations to the Cordoba Conference:

***I. A review of measures taken by Spain:***

As host of the Cordoba Conference, JBI encourages Spain to implement the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen commitments to combat discrimination and antisemitism.

The profile of Spain reveals that there is hate crimes legislation, including provision for anti-Semitic motives as an aggravating factor, and the country has ratified international human rights instruments permitting individual communications. It also agreed to host the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba. Yet, anti-Semitic incidents are reported – such as vandalism of synagogues and Jewish community institutions – and there is no system to monitor such anti-Semitic incidents. The profile cites a public opinion poll of 10 European countries in which Spain reportedly had the highest proportion of its population (34%) displaying anti-Semitic views. There are very few educational initiatives to combat discrimination and promote tolerance. The Spanish government should

include in its educational programs teaching of the Holocaust that has a focus on combating contemporary anti-Semitism.

## ***II. Recommendations to the OSCE:***

**-Extend the mandate** of the newly appointed OSCE personal representatives as well as those in ODIHR who are tasked to collect information on intolerance, especially those addressing antisemitism, which is a distinct phenomenon.

**-Provide support** for the personal representatives so they can work independently and direct their energies to where they are most needed, in accord with their mandates. One of the issues facing the organization was whether resources can be – or should be – devoted to the work of the three personal representatives. Modest funding, mainly voluntary, has been provided to support all three personal representatives. The sum agreed, reportedly about \$250,000, will be utilized to cover travel and expenses of the representatives, but will not provide for staff, commissioned reports, or other expenses.

**-Use a human rights response** and methodology to address anti-Semitic acts, in accord with OSCE's leading role in responding to human rights problems.

**- Coordination should advance, not hinder, action.** While it is important for OSCE representatives and other human rights mechanisms to coordinate with one another as appropriate to avoid duplication and learn from the activities and strategies of one another, it is essential to ensure that requests for coordination do not hinder the capacity of the representatives to respond to the specific needs of his/her own unique mandate.

## ***III. Recommendations to States:***

The Antisemitism Representative measures for States to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism in Europe, including:

**-Comply with their OSCE Commitments** to combat antisemitism and discrimination at Copenhagen and since then, by adopting domestic legislation and enforcing it vigorously;

**-Establish systems of monitoring incidents** of anti-Semitism in each country; and,

**-Link educational programs**, including both Holocaust education and general tolerance education, to focus on fighting contemporary anti-Semitism.