

**Speech by Andreea Vesa, Human Rights Programme Manager, OSCE
Mission to Moldova, on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day,
Chisinau, 26 January 2018**

I am honored and humbled today to be able to participate in this very moving remembrance ceremony. Thank you for including the OSCE Mission to Moldova and inviting us to share a few thoughts.

The commitment to open dialogue and cooperation with the Jewish Community by the Republic of Moldova is to be commended. Moldova has not only consecrated 27 January as the day to commemorate the tragic events that took place here over 75 years ago but it has also committed to real, concrete measures to educate on the Holocaust in the local context and combat Anti-Semitism.

All these measures, outlined in the Action Plan for 2017-2019 on the Implementation of the Declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the Acceptance of the Final Report of the International Commission on the Holocaust Study, chaired by Elie Wiesel, show real promise and initiative and, as implementation is on its way, the Mission, together with other OSCE institutions, will continue to support these efforts.

In a short time from the adoption of the Action Plan, we have seen the beginnings already. I have just come from observing the opening of an exhibition on the Holocaust (and Roma killings) at the House of Nationalities – a well-conceived remembrance effort, undertaken together with the Jewish Community.

We are heartened by this cooperation and we are certain that it will pave the way for reaching a longer-term goal of establishing a Jewish Heritage Museum here in Chisinau. The building is there, and the Jewish Community has etched out plans at the ready. Now is the opportune moment for the Moldovan government to finalize the transfer of the building to the Ministry of Culture such that renovation can begin!

Today is a day filled with sadness, as we pay respect to those who unduly suffered. But today is also a day of hope, as it marks a new beginning to properly and rightfully outline this chapter in Moldova's history.