



**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY FREDERICKA GREGORY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
748TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
ON THE UN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
29 JANUARY 2009**

Madame Chair,

Two days ago on January 27th the world community marked the 4th annual International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. In this connection, my delegation would like to draw attention to the issuance of a press release earlier this week by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and to express our concerns about the rise in acts of anti-Semitism in the OSCE region – an alarming trend.

The extermination of millions of Jewish people and others during World War II was a crime against all humankind. In remembering the Holocaust and paying tribute to its victims, we also renew our commitment to fight against the evils of racism, discrimination, and anti-Semitism in our world today.

The Holocaust stands alone in human history for its horror and its inhumanity. It is crucial that we learn from this experience, not only to ensure that such atrocities never take place again, but also to build societies based on human dignity in which such acts are not even possible.

Canada is committed to ensuring that the Holocaust is not forgotten.

Madame Chair,

OSCE participating States are committed to combating anti-Semitism. For this reason we have tasked the ODIHR to follow closely and report on any incidents of anti-Semitism and hate crimes within the OSCE region. This is done in full co-operation with other OSCE institutions, and with relevant NGOs and international institutions. The ODIHR has also developed excellent tools and educational programs on anti-Semitism and for Holocaust memorial days. We encourage all to make the maximum use of these tools and to support the work of the OSCE/ODIHR in this important area.

We also wish to take this opportunity to highlight Canada's support for the work of the newly appointed Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, Rabbi Andrew Baker, and to wish him all the best as he assumes this important responsibility.

Thank you – Merci.