



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Implementing ODIHR's and Participating States' Tolerance Taskings**

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance  
June 8, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

On behalf of the United States, I would like to thank you and the introducers for your remarks and for the important work all of you do.

The ODIHR's projects and activities to assist participating States in the fields of legislation, law enforcement, data collection, education, and civil society development, all make a real difference in reducing intolerance and discrimination. The success of the ODIHR Program shows that the OSCE can and should be a beacon of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity in all 55 participating States.

We have all made some tough commitments to combat intolerance in the OSCE region. Fortunately, our commitments in these areas are something that can unite us – participating States both east of Vienna and west of Vienna – despite our diverse national positions and interests in other fields. Tolerance is in *all* of our national interests. Respect for diversity – whether it is ethnic, religious, social or political diversity – is the bedrock of a free and democratic society.

That is why the United States is so appreciative of the ODIHR projects that the introducers have presented in this workshop.

Holocaust education is a crucial tool in the fight against intolerance, because it teaches students about the horrible consequences that can follow when people allow hatred to enter their souls.

Training of law enforcement officers is another key to preventing and addressing the scourge of hate-motivated crime. To effectively stop hate crimes, police must be sensitive to the unique forms of evidence involved, and aware of the cultural sensitivities of the victims.

Finally, data collection is important because it helps establish patterns of hate-motivated incidents, which can help investigators and law enforcement authorities prevent future crimes before they happen.

I am pleased to share with Conference participants that the United States has made extra-budgetary contributions to support all three of the projects that were presented here today.

I am especially proud of our recent \$55,500 contribution, which enabled ODIHR and Mr. Goldenberg to pilot the law enforcement hate crimes project in Spain and Hungary. Due to the excellent success of that pilot, we plan to make a larger, additional contribution in the near future so that this good work can be shared with other participating States.

To be truly effective, however, ODIHR needs the support of *all* participating States. Those states seeking to promote OSCE-wide progress in the fight against intolerance should consider making concrete contributions – of funds, personnel, information on best practices, or cooperation with individual ODIHR projects – to the ODIHR Program on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination.

In line with our view that promoting tolerance is not only a critical human rights issue, but also is central to political stability in our increasingly diverse societies, the United States makes the following recommendations:

First, ODIHR tolerance activities, which are mandated by multiple Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions, should be performed by personnel on the permanent staff table. Too many experts in the Tolerance Program are still on secondment;

Second, participating States should make extra-budgetary contributions as needed to support ODIHR's tolerance program;

Third, participating States should embrace ODIHR as a resource for information on best practices and advice on combating intolerance, and they should request and accept the excellent assistance that ODIHR has to offer;

Finally, the OSCE Chairmanship must find a way to use the three Personal Representatives for tolerance that supports, rather than draws resources from, the ODIHR Program. The purpose of the Personal Representatives is to raise awareness of OSCE commitments in this field, to spread best practices, and to encourage States to utilize the assistance of ODIHR. ODIHR is the permanent OSCE institution that will carry the work of implementation forward over the next decades, through projects like the ones presented here today.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.