

Statement by Tad Stahnke
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
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The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is concerned with increasing manifestations of antisemitism across the OSCE region, manifestations that often go hand-in-hand with actions that attempt to distort or misuse the historical record of the Holocaust.

The Museum has observed with growing alarm actions by governments and/or prominent political figures in several countries where the Holocaust took place to distort or misuse that historical record. These actions threaten to reverse the substantial progress made in recent years in many OSCE countries to advance Holocaust remembrance, education and research.

In particular, the Museum condemns any attempt to limit academic and public discourse on historical issues to a single unchangeable national narrative by means of legislation and punishment.

The arbitration of historical facts does not belong with courts or legislative bodies. It belongs with rigorous scholars and educators committed to documenting historical truth and advancing accurate, thoughtful, open discourse.

The Museum also condemns statements by political leaders that call into question well-documented responsibility of wartime authorities for the murder of Jews during the Holocaust and other mass crimes, as well as official efforts to rehabilitate the reputation of those who were complicit in those crimes.

An accurate understanding of the events of the Holocaust is critical if we are to understand the ongoing lessons this history holds for us today. The Museum applies this principle every day, and I am pleased to invite all of you to visit us in Washington -- or online -- to see our new exhibit on Americans in the Holocaust which shines a light on how the American government and civil society responded, or didn't, to news of the Holocaust as it unfolded in Europe.

The OSCE was created to promote peace and security in the wake of the Second World War and the Cold War. Coming to terms with the dark past -- in particular the Holocaust -- is a long, difficult but important process for civil society to better secure that future.

We call on all member states to redouble their efforts to combat antisemitism in all of its forms and to promote historical accuracy and open debate as part of their OSCE commitments on Holocaust remembrance and education.

In that regard we continue to support and work with the ODHIR on its efforts to combat antisemitism through education and promote broad-based coalitions to combat antisemitism and other forms of racism and intolerance.

Thank you.

A living memorial to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity.