



STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

As delivered by chargé d'affaires a.i. Knut Are Okstad at the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 30 January 2024

Mr. Chair,

We honor the memory of the six million Jewish men, women, and children who perished in the Holocaust, alongside other victims of Nazi persecution. We remember not only the unimaginable suffering but also the resilience of those who survived.

However, remembrance alone is not enough. Today, antisemitism is on the rise across our societies, fueled by disinformation, conspiracy theories, and the polarization of our media landscape. Hate speech once confined to the margins is now amplified online, crossing borders in an instant, normalizing prejudice, and threatening the security of Jewish communities.

The OSCE has set strong standards to combat antisemitism. We must enhance education, ensure protection, and strengthen cooperation with civil society. Silence and complacency are not options. We urge all OSCE States to reaffirm their responsibility—not just to remember, but to act.

This year, Norway adopted a new national action plan to combat antisemitism. We greatly appreciate the contributions from ODIHR and from Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the CiO on combatting antisemitism, in the development of this action plan, and look forward to collaborating closely with the OSCE and ODIHR on its implementation.

I thank you.

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