

**Intervention by Suzette Bronkhorst of the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), addressed to the OSCE Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, Vienna, 4-5 September 2003.**

Distinguished delegates,

The International Network Against Cyber Hate is an International Network in which National Complaints Bureaus for Discrimination on the Internet work together.

Internet, the vast information and communication resource is becoming polluted more and more with racism, discrimination and xenophobia. Each month more hate sites appear and the number of racist messages on webfora and newsgroups runs into the thousands per month. A simple internet search on the word 'Muslim head scarf' does return some information about the religious reasons for wearing those but will foremost result in numerous hateful expressions about 'those Muslim scum'. A search on the word 'gaschambers' will give as first result the 'reasons' why gaschambers never existed and Jews were never industrially murdered.

Neo-nazi's, extremists, religious fundamentalists and terrorist organizations spread their rhetoric and actively try to get followers. Especially the youth runs the risk of being misled, indoctrinated and recruited.

We call upon the OSCE participating states to:

- Hold a special OSCE meeting dedicated to the many aspects of combating Hate on the Internet, including education, monitoring and legal measures.
- Promote and support agencies or organizations that handle complaints, monitor, assess and counteract cyberhate.
- Support the founding of such agencies.
- Promote a code that defines responsible and ethical conduct by Internet Providers.
- Sign and ratify the Council of Europe's additional Protocol to the Convention on cyber crime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems