

**2nd OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Education to  
promote mutual respect and understanding and to teach about the  
holocaust**

**Dubrovnik, 23 – 24 October 2006**

**Session III – Approaches to Holocaust Education/Remembrance  
in the Classroom**

The work in Sweden is mainly taking place by working through the teachers or other grown-ups.

Every academic semester, the Living History Forum organises further training courses for teachers and other interested parties. These take place in various places around Sweden and usually comprise one or two days. In 2006, Sweden and the Holocaust, atrocities by communist regimes and anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are priority subjects. The courses are planned and carried out together with researchers, university lecturers and teacher training staff from the area.

Through the courses, we offer the teachers a broad variation of approaches and tools. We do not have time for an in-depth discussion on the content of these courses, even less what the teachers actually bring back to the classroom.

Though I'd like to mention that what I said during the former session on tools to promote mutual respect also applies to what we are talking about in this session; holocaust education and remembrance in the classroom.

I'd also like to mention our work with the holocaust remembrance day, 27th of January.

In Sweden, the 27<sup>th</sup> of January is a national remembrance day since 1999. We are happy that more and more countries as well as the UN, decide to honour this day.

Our work is in line with the ODIHR's and Yad Vashem guidelines on holocaust memorial days, and we are very grateful for the great work they have done with preparing it.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day on which we can honour the victims of the Holocaust. Memorial ceremonies, cultural events, lectures, seminars, theme days in schools, torch processions, public manifestations and reminiscences by survivors are arranged all over Sweden on that day. The work is coordinated by

the living History Forum in cooperation with local organisers, lecturers, survivors, schools, municipalities and international organisations.

Every year, we present proposals for school projects that can be carried out in connection with the Remembrance. 2006, the theme was “people like you and me” and put focus on Jewish life before the Holocaust. In 2007, the theme will be linked to a bystander-theme. The school projects are taking place in classrooms as well as on the web.

There are two purposes with working with themes on the Holocaust memorial day. First – of course – to honour the victims and heroes of the Holocaust. But also to discuss the processes and workings that ultimately led to the Holocaust. From this comes a discussion on intolerance and discrimination today. Working with a theme also makes it easier to engage the same local organisers and schools year after year, and we consider the strategy to be very efficient. Every year, the number of local activities gets higher. Hopefully, even more will participate 2007.

Apart from the local initiatives and the work being done at the schools, a national commemoration is organized at the Raoul Wallenberg-plaza in central Stockholm. Politicians as well as the general public are invited to listen to speeches and cultural performances as well as lighting a candle for the victims of the Holocaust. The former prime minister mr Göran Persson as well as HRH The Crown Princess has participated.

Thank you for listening,