

Teaching Materials on Anti-Semitism

Prepared by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
and the Anne Frank House



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has repeatedly identified education as an important means of combating all forms of intolerance, including anti-Semitism. With the rise of anti-Semitism witnessed in Europe at the beginning of this century, there is a clear need to develop educational tools and strategies to combat this phenomenon today.

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam have responded by developing, in co-operation with experts from seven pilot countries, teaching materials that deal with a variety of aspects of anti-Semitism.

Divided into three parts, each module covers a particular aspect of anti-Semitism: Part 1 is on the history of anti-Semitism; Part 2 covers contemporary forms of anti-Semitism; and Part 3 looks at anti-Semitism as one of many forms of discrimination. The materials also include a comprehensive guide for teachers.

Lessons taught using these materials will provide insights into anti-Semitism as a historical phenomenon and also reveal links between past and present forms of anti-Semitism. The materials also deal with the workings of prejudice in general, showing students the impact that bias can have both on individuals and on whole societies.

The materials are designed in such a way as to provide schools and teachers with flexibility in terms of where to place such subject matter in their curriculum: They could fit easily into such subjects as History, Religious Studies, Literature, Social Studies, or be used on an interdisciplinary basis.



One innovative aspect of this project is that the materials produced are not of the one-size-fits-all variety. Instead, the two project partners worked closely with national experts to produce materials specific to the context of each of the pilot countries. As a result, teachers and students in the Netherlands, for example, will have materials that are not only written in Dutch but that also rely on Dutch experiences and examples. The same is the case for the other six pilot countries: Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine.

The materials are currently being tested in each of the seven countries and will be ready for wider use in 2007.

Other interested countries are invited to work with the project partners to adapt the materials to their own national contexts and to make them an integral part of the curriculum in their respective school systems.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a security organization with 56 participating States from Europe, North America, and Central Asia. Its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights supports the implementation of initiatives in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, human rights, and democracy.

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The Anne Frank House preserves Anne Frank's hiding place as a museum. It also promotes Anne Frank's ideals, not only in relation to the times in which she lived, but also in terms of their contemporary significance. Educational projects are developed to combat present-day forms of anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia and to encourage tolerance and respect for others.

For more information, please visit www.annefrank.org.



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