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**Intervention by Stacy Burdett, Anti-Defamation League**  
**October 5, 2009**  
**OSCE HDIM PLENARY**

The Anti-Defamation League was established in 1913 with its core mission to combat the then horrific discrimination against Jews in all facets of American life and the growth of hate groups and all forms of bigotry. As part of that fight, we pioneered the development of model hate crime laws, and models for exposing and educating against extremist that targets all groups.

We are gratified that, in response to an outcry about rising anti-Semitism a few years ago, OSCE states have made an impressive array of commitments to fight anti-Semitism and hate crime. While a growing number of states are tackling the challenge of hate crime, only a small minority of the states have an adequate system in place." Following this plenary, at a side event to present the ODIHR's draft of its new hate crime report, I will cite where each of your states falls on the continuum of compliance with these commitments and make recommendations for actions each state can take to move forward along the continuum to make continued progress toward effectively addressing hate crime.

Anti-Semitism and bigotry have been given new legitimacy across this region this year. We heard anti-Semitism creep into the debate about Israel's military operation in Gaza, over and over again the demonizing of immigrants and foreigners is a routine part of the political debate about immigration reform. And, as part of the coarsening of political debates, we see the invoking of the Holocaust and Nazi symbols and imagery. In my own country, we have been stunned by the use of these images in the debate over health care reform. This is accompanied by a rise in violent extremism targeting Jews and others, based on their race, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

And so my first recommendation may seem obvious but it is paramount.

**1. The Ministers Council and each of your political leadership should to condemn the rise of anti-Semitism and hate violence. Easy to condemn a marginal hate site, but let's call out the legitimizing of anti-semitism and hate among our own colleagues and leadership.**

welcome the contribution of the three Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office on anti-Semitism and intolerance and urge their reappointment by the incoming CiO. These representatives focus on distinct and specific forms of intolerance and can mobilize a targeted response at the political level as specific problems arise.

**2. Convene a high level conference on Anti-Semitism and Intolerance in 2010** and a supplemental HDIM on anti-Semitism as a vehicle to galvanize this leadership, without which nothing else is possible. to provide an important focal point to chart a course for progress.

**3. Fulfill their pledge to monitor and address hate crime.** Hate crime laws are the jumping off point for a whole range of political, policy education, prevention and response measures. Even the mere collection of disaggregated hate crime data is a powerful tool to confront anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry because it highlights the issue of hate violence for policymakers and the public -- and prompts government outreach and police training to identify, report, and respond to hate violence.

**4. Support the specialized work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Tolerance and non-Discrimination Department** and promote its reporting, education and training programs and other tools to combat anti-Semitism and hate crime.

**5. Utilize ODIHR tools** like Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide designed to help establish a common framework to improve hate crime response with models for lawmakers, community organizations and law enforcement. States should enlist the help of ODIHR expertise to seek ways to utilize the guide. ADL was gratified to have played a role in its drafting.

**6. Forge Links with Civil Society.** Governments can do a lot to involve communities in efforts to craft and implement policies. States should establish a framework for regular communication between communities and relevant officials. States should also support ODIHR efforts to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations to serve as a bridge between officials and law enforcement and communities to ensure an effective response.

Reality is, most hate crimes never solved. After the dust settles what we are left with is how well we responded, whether we used it as a catalyst to advance progress or promote fear. We all have a choice and that choice matters. Your action or inaction this year distinguished delegates, is the way you tell convey your choice.