

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Working Session 6

**Statement by the Community Security Trust**

The OSCE Words into Action programme, funded by the German Government for just over three years, is proving to be a unique initiative in combating antisemitism. It combines the latest and most successful elements of coalition-building, and educational programmes together with expert advice on enhancing the security of Jewish communities.

In line with the latest ODIHR practice, the programmes have been prepared jointly by government experts, police officers and Jewish community experts and a broad range of civil society activists.

The program is in essence an effort to support the implementation of previous commitments on Antisemitism, a direct response to the 2014 Berlin conference that identified a real gap between political commitments and action. As can be expected in an intergovernmental framework, it took some time to get the infrastructure for the project in place. Then it took some time to start activities that eventually led to the production of some impressive outputs. To genuinely put words into action, we now need to see how these outputs will be sustainably implemented throughout the OSCE Region.

While violent antisemitic crime may have declined in the past two years they remain at dramatically and dangerously high levels. New threats, such as the rise of violent right wing extremism now confront Jewish communities in the OSCE region, in addition to the ongoing threat from violent jihadi terrorism. Even in the last twelve months security services have foiled several terror plots aimed at Jewish communities. Antisemitic discourse, particularly online, is growing and Jewish communities continue to question whether they still have a place in the OSCE region.

We are now coming towards the end of the funding arrangement, and it would be a terrible waste of money, expertise and hopes if the programme were now to languish as a consequence of no funding, or if ODIHR failed to comprehensively integrate the projects outputs into its existing programmes and structures.