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At the request of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation the attached contribution delivered at the session 5 of the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on other Forms of Intolerance, Cordoba, 8 - 9 June 2005, is being circulated to all delegations.



ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ АЛЕКСИЙ

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Участникам Конференции ОБСЕ по антисемитизму и другим формам нетерпимости (Кордова, Испания, 8-9 июня 2005 года)

Уважаемые участники конференции!

Русская Православная Церковь всецело разделяет серьезную озабоченность правительств и общественности, вызванную проявлениями ксенофобии, антисемитизма, всех видов национальной розни и нетерпимости. Мы с тревогой наблюдаем, что спустя 60 лет после окончания Второй мировой войны в некоторых европейских государствах вновь поднимает голову неуважение и неприязнь к религиозным и культурным традициям других народов.

Наша Церковь всегда свидетельствовала о том, что проявление любых форм национальной нетерпимости, будь то исламофобия, преследование национальных меньшинств в Косово, дискриминация русских в некоторых государствах Балтии - греховны и противоречат христианскому вероучению. Особо трагическими последствиями в XX веке отличался антисемитизм – одна из крайних форм человеконенавистничества и национальной розни. К сожалению, проявление этого греха имеет место и сегодня, в том числе среди общественных деятелей, публицистов, лидеров экстремистских группировок. Многие из них оскорбляют и чувства других наций, включая русскую, попирают их святыни и историческую память.

Со всей определенностью можно сказать, что Европа не имеет будущего без признания государствами и обществами национальных, культурных, религиозных традиций всех населяющих ее народов. Это должны понять не только коренные жители континента, но и те, кто приезжает сюда жить и работать из других регионов мира.

К сожалению, некоторые политики считают, что подавление присущих какому-либо народу традиций, в том числе религиозных, будет способствовать большей терпимости. Мы считаем это ошибкой, вызванной иллюзией одинаковости всех народов. Только уважение многообразия традиций, культур, жизненных устоев может лечь в основу прочного мира и согласия в обществе.

Несомненно, государство должно бороться с проявлениями экстремизма, вражды, нетерпимости. Однако одних ограничений и наказаний явно недостаточно. Следует способствовать диалогу между представителями этно-конфессиональных сообществ, который только и может стать путем к созиданию мира, лишеного национальной и религиозной ненависти.

ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ

**To: Participants in
OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance
(Cordova, Spain, 8-9 June 2005)**

Dear Participants,

The Russian Orthodox Church fully shares the governments and general public's serious concern for xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and all forms of national strife and intolerance. It is with anxiety that we see disrespect and hostility to religious and cultural traditions of other nations to raise in certain European states again, sixty years after the end of World War II.

Our Church has always affirmed that any form of national intolerance, be it Islamophobia, or persecution of minority groups in Kosovo, or even discrimination of Russians in some Baltic states, is sinful and contradicts the Christian teaching. Anti-Semitism is an extreme form of misanthropy and national discord and it had particularly tragic consequences in the 20th century. Unfortunately, this sin is also displayed today among public figures, publicists, and leaders of extremist groups. Many of them offend the feelings of other nations, Russian including, and trample on their shrines and historic memory.

We can definitely say that Europe has no future if its states and societies do not accept national, cultural, and religious traditions of all people living in it. Not only native population of the continent should understand it, but also those who come here to live and work from different regions of the world.

Unfortunately, some politicians think that the repression of certain national traditions, including religious ones, would contribute to the development of tolerance. We consider it to be a mistake caused by the illusion that all people are the same. The lasting peace and harmony in society can be based only on respect for the variety of traditions, cultures, and foundations of life.

Undoubtedly, the state should fight against manifestations of extremism, hostility and intolerance. However, only limitations and punishments are not enough. We should contribute to the dialogue between representatives of ethnic and confessional communities, which can be the only way to creating the world free from national and religious hatred.

/+Alexy/

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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