



**NONE SHALL
BE AFRAID**
FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

Fighting Anti-Semitism at the OSCE

One of the international organizations most deeply engaged in the fight against anti-Semitism over the past two decades has been the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE's 57 member countries include the United States, Canada, Turkey and all the countries of Europe and the former Soviet Union. B'nai B'rith's active participation in the OSCE's work on anti-Semitism is facilitated by the integral role that non-governmental organizations play within the OSCE framework, as NGOs enjoy a seat at the table next to government representatives at many of the organization's multilateral gatherings.

In 2003, the OSCE made history by hosting the first major intergovernmental conference devoted exclusively to anti-Semitism, as member states convened in Vienna, Austria to respond to the alarming rise of this social problem in Europe. The following year, the OSCE issued a landmark statement at a follow-up conference in Berlin, Germany. Known as the Berlin Declaration, the document established the crucial principle "that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism." The OSCE's Ministerial Council and Parliamentary Assembly later codified the Berlin Declaration, confirming it as one of the most important documents in the 21st century struggle against anti-Semitism.

Founded in the Cold War détente phase of the early 1970s as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the organization was designed to serve as a forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West on political, military, economic and human rights issues. The organization has taken on new life as the OSCE in the post-Cold War era, enlarging its membership and forming institutions that give the OSCE greater operational capacity.

One of the most important OSCE bodies is its Warsaw, Poland-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Through the dedicated work of its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination unit and its expert advisor on anti-Semitism, ODIHR develops resources and programs to raise awareness about anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. By advising governments on policy, training educators and law enforcement officers and helping civil society better monitor and report on hate crimes and incidents, ODIHR has allowed the OSCE to further its goal of combating anti-Semitism and engaging countries across the OSCE region in this effort.



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