The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has developed the Words into Action project to strengthen the capacity of OSCE participating States and civil society to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism.

From the 2004 Berlin Declaration onwards, OSCE participating States have made numerous commitments on preventing and responding to manifestations of anti-Semitism and other acts of intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief. ODIHR will undertake extensive activities geared toward developing new channels of assistance for participating States and ways of encouraging governments to fulfill their commitments.

Activities
Specifically, ODIHR will undertake activities in all three areas, including:

- Addressing the security needs of Jewish communities;
- Countering anti-Semitism through education; and
- Fostering coalition building among different communities.

Starting in 2016 under the German OSCE Chairmanship, which has generously provided funding for the multi-year project, ODIHR will carry out activities in the three interconnected areas listed above.

Addressing the security needs of Jewish communities
Draft a security policy guideline document for governments through expert and stakeholder consultations, and begin work on a reporting app that makes it easier for civil society to document anti-Semitic incidents;

Countering anti-Semitism through education
Develop education policy guidelines through expert and practitioner consultations, and a blueprint for multi-media tools that support new ideas for school curricula, as well as funding a range of short projects; and
“OSCE participating States have recognized that anti-Semitism poses a threat to stability and security in the OSCE region. They agreed to undertake a number of steps to address the problem in co-operation with civil society. This is our opportunity to turn the words expressed at the High-Level Conferences in Berlin in 2004 and 2014 into actions that make societies safer for our Jewish communities – in fact, safer for everyone.”

Michael Georg Link Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Fostering coalition building among communities
Identify a practical model for civil society to engage in inclusive coalition building, create a training package that supports the model, and hold youth activist workshops to promote exchange.

Partnership
ODIHR will engage stakeholders employing a bottom up and top down approach to help ensure that government officials, including parliamentarians, civil society and intergovernmental organizations are committed to addressing anti-Semitism. ODIHR will work to broaden support for the campaign by creating practical tools, both on and offline, that are easily accessible to and customized for the widest possible range of audiences across the OSCE area, to promote a human-rights based approach to ending anti-Semitism.

More information:
For detailed information about ODIHR’s hate crime initiatives and to view its full range of resources and publications, please visit www.osce.org/odihr/antisemitism

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