



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE
Delivered by Minister Counsellor Henning Hjortland Johansen
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 31 January 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

On 27 January, we observed the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This day is an occasion to honour the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, but also to remind ourselves to educate future generations of its lessons and its horrors. To prevent future genocide, we must not and we cannot forget.

Still, our region continues to see incidents of hate speech, of harassment of Jews and Jewish property, and of neo-Nazis marching the streets. History has demonstrated that we must not allow these forces of intolerance and discrimination to define our societies.

Norwegian authorities work actively with national and international partners with the combined purpose of safeguarding history, preventing distortion and misinformation about the Holocaust, and countering anti-Semitism and other group-based prejudice and harassment wherever it occurs.

As a response to incidents in Norway, the Government has adopted an Action Plan against anti-Semitism. Several ministries and government agencies work together to implement the action plan with a particular emphasis on prevention and education. We welcome the ODIHR/UNESCO guidelines for addressing anti-Semitism through education, published in 2018. We note that they highlight Norway as an example of good practice. Nonetheless, we are aware that challenges remain.

Anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial or distortion are international issues. We must confront them internationally. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is a valuable partner in uniting both governments and experts in efforts to strengthen education, information and research into the Holocaust.

The OSCE also has an important part to play. In particular the institutions: ODIHR broadly through its work on tolerance and non-discrimination, the RFoM in its efforts to counter hate speech in the media, and, not least the High Commissioner on National Minorities as an instrument of conflict prevention with regard to national minority issues.

However, the responsibility to prevent and counter anti-Semitism remains with the participating States. To free our region from intolerance and discrimination and its manifestation in anti-Semitism, vigilance must remain the watchword of us all.

Thank you