



November 26, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In advance of the upcoming Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on December 5-6, we are sharing analysis by the Anti-Defamation League and Human Rights First of a just-released report on hate crime in the 57 OSCE participating States. Our analysis concludes that the majority of OSCE participating States are falling far short of honoring their commitments to combat hate crime.

The annual hate crime report of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is a unique effort to understand the prevalence of hate crimes across the region and it allows communities and advocacy groups like the Anti-Defamation League and Human Rights First to analyze the data, identify countries that are falling short of their commitments to address hate crime, and develop recommendations for action. For the last five years, the Anti-Defamation League and Human Rights First have partnered to convert ODIHR's information into a scorecard that assesses the performance of OSCE participating States in specific areas of monitoring and addressing hate crimes.

ODIHR's hate crime work is just one outgrowth of the leadership of the United States in making the OSCE a leading forum for highlighting the problem of anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry and for engaging governments in response and prevention. We have long welcomed our engagement with the State Department in making the OSCE a forum for elevating the need for governments to take action against anti-Semitism, hate crime and all forms of discrimination.

We look forward to working with you, Assistant Secretary Victoria Nuland, Ambassador Dan Baer and other State Department officials in ensuring that the fight against hate crime remains squarely on the OSCE human dimension agenda.

We call on you to urge participating States, during the plenary session of the Ministerial Council Meeting and in relevant bi-lateral meetings, to fulfill their commitments to monitor hate crime and to confront anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.

Sincerely,



Tad Stahnke  
Director of Policy and Programs  
Human Rights First



Stacy Burdett  
Director, Washington D.C. Office  
Anti-Defamation League

cc: The Honorable Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs

The Honorable Dan Baer, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)