



Delegation of the United States of America
to the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

November 16, 2023

Heads of Delegation and Members of the Bureau
c/o OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat
Tordenskjoldgade 1
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Colleagues:

At this moment of particular concern, I submit my most recent report as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.

October 7 became one of the darkest days since the Holocaust for the Jewish people when Hamas brutally murdered approximately 1,400 Israeli civilians in waves of attacks fueled by antisemitism, hatred, and intolerance. Even as we struggle to comprehend and confront the scope of this horror, we are witnessing further surges of online hate, verbal assaults, vandalism, desecration of Holocaust memorials and cemeteries, intimidation, death threats, and physical attacks.

As parliamentarians, we must condemn violence whenever and wherever it occurs, intensify efforts to safeguard Jewish and Muslim communities, build broad-based coalitions to fight the normalization of prejudice and discrimination, and teach important truths so that all may understand the violence that is unleashed when hatred goes unchecked.

I again urge you to partner with governments, ODIHR, and others to implement national strategies and draw upon existing tools to improve our ability to recognize and counter hate in all of its forms. I look forward to reporting separately on my initiative as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U.S. Senate to launch an urgent call to action together with my foreign affairs committee counterparts around the world to counter this alarming rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim bigotry.

Sincerely,

Ben Cardin
Head of the U. S. Delegation
to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly