

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address this distinguished forum.

I am greatly concerned by the rise of anti-Semitism throughout the OSCE region. In the 21st century, countries in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia should not witness attacks against Jews, desecrations of synagogues and cemeteries, or booby-trapped hate-filled signs designed to maim and kill Jews who try to remove them. Nor should these countries tolerate the hatred spewed by skinheads and other radical groups throughout the region.

Such hatred has brought catastrophe to the region in our lifetimes already, and we must ensure that the fields of Europe and Asia are not sown with the seeds of intolerance ever again.

It is the responsibility of the OSCE governments to set a zero tolerance policy for anti-Semitic speech and acts. In their OSCE commitments, all governments pledged to condemn anti-Semitism unequivocally and take effective measures to both prosecute those who commit such hate crimes and to protect individuals from anti-Semitic violence. Governments must also work to eradicate the hopelessness that drives those on the margins of society to seek out scapegoats for their predicaments. I fear that governments are doing little to either crack down on expressions of hatred or to address its root causes.

I was therefore motivated to introduce House Resolution 393, which calls on European governments to:

- (1) continue to take necessary steps to provide security and to protect the safety and well-being of their Jewish communities;
- (2) deplore anti-Semitic expressions and prosecute and punish perpetrators of anti-Semitic violence; and
- (3) continue to make a concerted effort to cultivate an atmosphere in which all forms of anti-Semitism are rejected.

The House of Representatives passed this resolution unanimously on July 9 of this year, making clear the belief of this body that its counterparts overseas must attack the problem of anti-Semitism head on.

I look forward to working with this distinguished commission and my colleagues in the OSCE region to develop and implement measures that will combat anti-Semitism. I commend the Commission, Congressman Smith, my European colleagues who are here today to testify, and others who are dedicated to eradicating anti-Semitism in the OSCE region for their work to remove this evil from our midst.

Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to be here today.