



GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Speech by Deputy Prime Minister Sabine Monauni

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture

at the
OSCE conference on combating antisemitism
09. February 2026
Congress Einstein, St. Gallen

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to address you at the opening of the OSCE Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism.

I would like to thank the Chairperson-in-Office, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, and the Swiss authorities for hosting this conference here in St. Gallen and for making the fight against anti-Semitism a priority of the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship.

Switzerland assumes the Chairpersonship at a time when the OSCE is facing considerable challenges. Liechtenstein welcomes the priorities presented by the Swiss Chair and values the emphasis placed on our shared commitments, dialogue and cooperation. Anti-Semitism continues to manifest itself across the OSCE region in many different forms: in hate speech, in exclusionary or hostile narratives, in harassment, and at times in acts of violence.

Recent years have seen a worrying increase in anti-Semitic incidents and the emergence of new patterns, including coded language, conspiracy narratives, online hostility and the instrumentalization of international developments. While Jewish communities are directly affected, these trends also pose wider risks for our societies: anti-Semitism undermines social cohesion, challenges democratic values and, within the OSCE's concept of security, is recognised as a destabilising factor across borders.

Liechtenstein addresses this challenge through concrete measures that combine law, prevention and education. A central element is our criminal law. Section 283 of the Liechtenstein Criminal Code establishes a comprehensive prohibition of public discrimination. It criminalises public incitement to hatred or discrimination, the dissemination of degrading ideologies, and the denial or trivialisation of genocide and crimes against humanity.

This legal framework enables the authorities to act against anti-Semitic hate speech and Holocaust denial, including in digital spaces. At the same time, legal provisions must be supported by awareness in society. In 2023, Liechtenstein therefore launched a nationwide campaign entitled "Discrimination is a crime – Tolerance is your right", which highlights legal protections, addresses digital spaces explicitly and encourages affected persons to seek support. Its broad support by public authorities, the national police, all municipalities and many institutions reflects a shared responsibility across society.

Remembrance and education are equally important. Liechtenstein commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day each year with a public event. The 2026 commemoration focused on dialogue between a Holocaust survivor and students, reflecting our conviction that remembrance must remain connected to learning and that younger generations play a central role in shaping an inclusive society.

Close cooperation within the OSCE is equally essential. The Organisation provides a shared framework of commitments, common standards and practical tools that help participating States address anti-Semitism more effectively – politically, legally and in their engagement with civil society. ODIHR contributes meaningfully to this work through hate-crime data collection, training activities and the exchange of good practices, while the Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representative maintains political attention and facilitates dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders. We attach particular importance to the involvement of civil society, whose hands-on expertise is indispensable for addressing discrimination in all its forms.

At the same time, we must continue to uphold freedom of expression as a foundation of open societies. But freedom of expression does not extend to incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination. Drawing this line clearly, and enforcing it consistently, is essential to preserving both democratic debate and the safety of targeted communities. This conference provides an opportunity to move this work forward in a practical and focused manner. I wish you constructive discussions.

Thank you.