



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Opening Remarks

H.E. Ambassador Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General

Photo Exhibition

“The Holocaust: Destruction, Liberation, Rescue”

Vienna, Hofburg

3 April 2019

I am honoured to be here today - together with Amb Lukashevich, Amb Lador-Frescher and Rabbi Baker - for the opening of this photo exhibition.

*Dear Ambassadors,
Colleagues and Friends,*

This exhibition features previously unseen historical documents and photographs. It provides a strong visual reminder of the horror of the Holocaust, and of the evil that humans are capable of inflicting on each other.

The awareness of genocide and crimes against humanity that emerged after the Holocaust continues to have a significant imprint on international organizations like the OSCE.

OSCE participating States acknowledge the inherent dignity of the individual that is at the core of comprehensive security. The Organization's tolerance and non-discrimination agenda, including efforts to combat anti-Semitism, forms a crucial and integral part of our Helsinki heritage.

Staying alert to the persistent challenges of anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination is vital. A comprehensive and co-operative approach remains the best way to prevent anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Rabbi Andrew Baker, the Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representative on Combatting Anti-Semitism, for his role in raising awareness of threats to the safety and wellbeing of religious communities

throughout the OSCE region. I also commend the work of ODIHR as the OSCE's hub of expertise on matters of tolerance and non-discrimination, including anti-Semitism.

Holocaust remembrance helps raise awareness about the potential dangers of intolerance and discrimination and thus supports prevention. This exhibition, which will tour several European cities, contributes to these efforts.

I thank the Russian Delegation curator Mr. Ilya Altman and the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Centre for bringing this exhibition to the Hofburg.

Thank you.