

Education Against Antisemitism

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Antisemitism Is a Problem For All of Us

Antisemitism is destructive for society and a threat for life of Jews and other minorities :

“What starts with the Jews never ends with them.”

The recent Islamist terror in European cities is just the currently most extreme example.

We have to acknowledge that radical antisemitism can come from a number of different ideological movements, such as the extreme Right, Islamism, and the radical Left.

Education Against Antisemitism

– “Bridging the past to the present?”

Teaching about the Holocaust



Education against antisemitism

Analogies to the present often distort the past *and* the present and may reinforce antisemitism: Holocaust denial and diminishing is a form of antisemitism.

Teaching about the Holocaust must be based on an *honest historical* approach (best practice e.g. Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah).

Holocaust: worst form of antisemitism put in practice so far.

Acknowledge Antisemitism in Its Distinctiveness

Antisemitism



Racism

But both must be fought

“The racist hates in the Other his visible and conspicuous Otherness, the antisemite hates his invisible and indefinable difference.” (Bernard-Henri Lévy)

Discrimination – Conspiracy Theories

Anti-racism understood as protection of a perceived underdog can even encourage antisemitism: the antisemite believes that “the Jews” are always the oppressors.

Realistic Goals

Do not teach bias. Many school books are biased or omit facts when it comes to the history of Jews, Judaism, the Holocaust, Zionism, and Israel. The antisemitic dimension of the Holocaust is – strangely – also often neglected.

The role of educators is important:

- No tolerance for intolerance
 - identify and support anti-antisemites
 - exclude, sanction, and combat hardcore antisemites
- silent majority will be sensibilized

Individual Responsibility & Unbiased Treatment of Other Individuals (regardless their background)

Those who have learnt to take **responsibility** for their actions and who have experienced that **their ability to change things** are less likely to believe in conspiracy fantasies.

Those who have learnt to **treat others without bias against their background** are less likely to discriminate against "the Jews".

Recognizing Current Forms of Antisemitism

“Anti-Semitism is 'a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as **hatred toward Jews**'. Manifestations of anti-Semitism '**could also target the State of Israel**, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Anti-Semitism frequently **charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity**, and it is often used to blame Jews for 'why things go wrong'. It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms, and in actions, and employs **sinister stereotypes** and negative character traits.”

OSCE/Yad Vashem Guidelines

“Addressing Anti-Semitism: Why and How? A Guide for Educators“

Educate the Educators

– *Without Reproducing Stereotypes !* –
on Current Forms of Antisemitism

- Conspiracy theories: Allegation: “Jews rule the world“
- Antisemitic stereotypes and their history
- Anti-Zionism: Demonization of Israel. Allegation: “The Jews support an (allegedly) evil state.“
- Antisemitism and the Holocaust: Allegation: “Jews use the memory of the Holocaust.“
- Denial of the Holocaust

More Resources

Available in a number of languages

OSCE/ Yad Vashem Guidelines

“Addressing Anti-Semitism: Why and How? A Guide for Educators“

OSCE Hands-on-Material on Antisemitism and the Holocaust