

A Summary of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Teaching Aids

Addressing Anti-Semitism through Education

Below please find a short summary of the teaching aids that address anti-Semitism through education which were published by ODIHR, and can be downloaded in several languages under the following link: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/441146>

“In recent years, violent and deadly anti-Semitic attacks have spread fear throughout Jewish communities in the OSCE region. All too often, Jewish people are forced to contend with physical assaults, the destruction or vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and community buildings and online or offline anti-Semitic hate speech and harassment.

While the need for international efforts to combat anti-Semitism is increasingly urgent, it is educators who have the power to address this pressing social challenge by instilling the values of mutual respect and equality in their students. Based on [research by the University of Derby](#) into the most prevalent challenges teachers face in educating about anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, ODIHR, within its multi-year German funded project “Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism”, has produced ten specialized teaching aids to support teachers to address anti-Semitism.

They offer guidance for responding effectively to challenging questions or behaviour from students, provide brief but essential background information on contemporary manifestations, and signpost other useful resources for further reading. The overall learning approach focuses on promoting human rights, tolerance and critical thinking. This set of teaching aids complements other resources produced by ODIHR such as the Addressing Anti-Semitism through Education: Guidelines for Policymakers, Addressing Anti-Semitism in Schools: Training Curricula and Addressing Anti-Semitism in Schools: Educational Videos. ODIHR would like to acknowledge the work of the organization CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, who has supported the development and drafting of these teaching aids.”

1. Increasing Knowledge about Jews and Judaism

“The purpose of this teaching aid is to provide basic knowledge about the religion, culture and diversity of the Jewish people; and foster understanding of the roots, practices and customs, prayers and beliefs, etc., of this diverse group. The teaching suggestions that follow can help students broaden their understanding of the many aspects of being Jewish.”

2. Overcoming Unconscious Biases

“This teaching aid provides information about how unconscious biases function, as well as strategies to identify and reduce their negative impact on teachers’ attitudes and behaviours both inside and outside the classroom. It complements ODIHR’s teaching aid no. 3, “Addressing Anti-Semitic Stereotypes and Prejudice”, which provides detailed examples of the types of prejudice specifically faced by Jewish people.”

3. Addressing Anti-Semitic Stereotypes and Prejudice

“The purpose of this teaching aid is to provide an overview of the role and function of stereotypes, a summary and “debunking” of the most common stereotypes and myths against Jews, and concrete suggestions as to how teachers might address them in their classrooms.

4. Challenging Conspiracy Theories

“This teaching aid will look at how conspiracy theories function, how they may relate to anti-Semitism, and outline strategies to overcome them in the classroom. It provides pedagogical techniques to enable students to build their critical thinking skills as they investigate conspiracy theories and debunk them. One outcome of the technique is that students go through a tangible and experiential process that leads them organically to the realization that not all theories they read or hear are based on facts.”

5. Teaching about Anti-Semitism through Holocaust Education

“This teaching aid will provide guidance on how to confront contemporary anti-Semitism through Holocaust education. With the help of this aid, teachers will be able to:

- Understand how a racist and anti-Semitic ideology informed the development of the Holocaust; and
- Recognize anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred in today’s world.”

6. Addressing Holocaust Denial, Distortion and Trivialization

“The purpose of this teaching aid is to provide a better understanding of [...] expressions of anti-Semitism and to support teachers in countering the following:

- resistance to lessons about and from the Holocaust;
- misinformation about the Holocaust among students; and
- incongruous or flawed parallels made between what the Jews experienced during the Holocaust and how other groups are suffering or have suffered.”

7. Anti-Semitism and National Memory Discourse

“This teaching aid looks at how teachers can acknowledge, challenge and reject anti-Semitism when it arises in classroom discussions, specifically when it is triggered by narratives of national memory.”

8. Dealing with Anti-Semitic Incidents

“This teaching aid will provide information about the sort of anti-Semitic incidents that may occur and offer guidance on some of the ways in which teachers can address these incidents to prevent them from being repeated or escalating.”

9. Dealing with Online Anti-Semitism

“This teaching aid provides strategies for dealing with online hatred when it enters the classroom, with the aim of reducing its impact.”

10. Anti-Semitism and the Situation in the Middle East

“This teaching aid aims to provide the necessary tools to support teachers when they encounter anti-Semitism related to the situation in the Middle East. The information provided is intended to help prevent and address confusion and misunderstanding when addressing this complex topic in the classroom.”

This overview was prepared by TLI with the permission of ODIHR.