

# DECLARATION

## of the Second Moscow International Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, and Racism “Protecting Future”

**Moscow, October 30, 2018**

We, the participants of the Second Moscow International Conference “Protecting Future” - political, public and religious figures, scientists and educators from 35 countries, we appeal to the world governments and to international organizations to develop an effective system of measures to combat any and all manifestations of racial, ethnic and religious intolerance.

- We consider anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia to be major threats to modern civilization, its principles based on respect for human rights, dialogue of cultures, and recognition of the need for diversity and tolerance. There is only one short step from appeals inciting interethnic and sectarian strife to murder and pogroms. A shattering example is the horrible Pittsburgh synagogue shooting.
- We are sure that different forms of incitement of hatred in the sphere of interethnic relations are closely connected with each other. Migrantophobia occupies the first place among phobias challenging humanism as we understand it today. We believe that measures for the forced assimilation of representatives of different nations, as well as forcing linguistic and religious discriminations are unacceptable.
- We respect the contribution of religious denominations to countering anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism. In the teachings of every traditional denomination, there are provisions that call for benevolence, mercy and justice. The promotion of these values by authoritative religious figures is an important factor in the harmonization of social relations. Any attempt by fundamentalists, regardless of their religious affiliation, to use creeds to incite division and hatred is unacceptable.
- We believe that it is necessary to take a stand to combat anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia and to develop mutual understanding among people. It is not enough to say the right words - we must act. Special attention should be paid to working with young people - our future. Educational and cultural institutions and media structures should play a key role in this.
- Through our acts we should show our intolerance of any signs of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. There is not and cannot be “respectable” xenophobia, “soft” anti-Semitism or “moderate” racism. Statements by politicians borrowing xenophobic arguments for obtaining additional votes are unacceptable. No less dangerous are attempts to mimic anti-Semitic, xenophobic and racist manifestations for scientific research or cultural freedom, the use of a substitution of concepts, for example using the ‘revision’ of the Holocaust history. We state that anti-Semitism often disguises itself as “anti-Zionism” or “anti-Israelism” and call upon all governments and international organizations to prevent demonization of Jews or denial of their rights to live in Israel.
- We believe that the rights and freedoms of some people should not be exercised at the expense of others - no one has the right to incite hostility and hatred with impunity. In this regard, the responsibility of the media is especially great. New mechanisms and social networks are needed to channel positive civic activism. We must fight for the hearts and minds of people who accept xenophobic prejudices, and be harsh and implacable towards leaders and ideologists who spread xenophobia.
- We believe that the fight against anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia should be global. Extreme nationalism and Isolationism strengthen the appeal of myths that glorify past practices and historical figures involved in the genocidal persecution of other nationalities and religions. Taking the globalization into account, regular exchanges are need to counter provincial prejudices. New policies should consider how Russia dramatically reduced the number of the hate crimes targeting Jews.

Our task is to consistently implement the principles contained in this Declaration. For its implementation we propose to:

- Draw public attention to any actions that violate peace between people belonging to different nations and denominations.
- Cultivate laws of any state which encourage tolerance and diversity.
- Support cultural and educational projects and civil initiatives aimed at countering anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

**WE WILL PROTECT THE FUTURE TOGETHER!**

