

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
DPI/NGO
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
SECTION

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Press Advisory

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***Anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia and Racism:
New Perspectives on Old Menaces***
is focus of DPI/NGO Section Briefing
Conference Room 1
Thursday, 22 January 2004
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters
New York

“Anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia and Racism: New Perspectives on Old Menaces” will focus of a DPI/NGO Briefing to be held on Thursday, 22 January from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1 of the UN Secretariat building.

Organized by the NGO Section of Department of Public Information (DPI), the Briefing will focus on the heightened concerns regarding these problems and explore strategies to understand and combat the resurgent threats of anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia and racism. The central role of the United Nations in this effort will be underscored, while panellists will explore the very local and personal natures of intolerance, prejudice and discrimination from psychosocial perspectives.

The Briefing panellists, representing a variety of national and ethnic backgrounds, include: **Shashi Tharoor**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information; **Dr. Afaf Mahfouz**, psychoanalyst, International Psychoanalytical Association; **Dr. Salman Akhtar**, Professor of Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College Philadelphia; **Dr. Ira Brenner**, psychoanalyst, American Psychoanalytical Association; and **Dr. Forrest Hamer**, psychologist, University of California Berkeley.

The problems of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and racism require institutional as well as community and individual responses. The United Nations is a leading force in combating these persistent problems. Over the decades, the Organization has overseen the painstaking creation and monitoring of binding international agreements and conventions establishing the principles of non-discrimination and equality without distinction to race, ethnic group, culture and religion. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in a speech earlier this month: "The United Nations, for its part, must reject all forms of racism and discrimination. Only in so doing, clearly and consistently, will it be true to its Charter and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to people of all creeds and colours striving for their dignity."

UNTV will cover the Briefing and web cast live through an interactive site, <http://www.un.org>, enabling NGO representatives and the general public worldwide to follow the Briefing proceedings through their personal computers. To obtain a live feed or tape, please call UNTV at (212) 963-7650. Updates are available at our web site at: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>

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