

One highlight of the 2010 winter session of the Council of Europe was the exhibition in honour of

ANDREI SAKHAROV

“Like any other member of the Russian Intelligentsia, ANDREI SAKHAROV hated hatred. And as a social thinker he perfectly well understood that hatred flaring up between different communities - whether ethnic, religious, social, racial or political - was one of the main causes of human disunity.

As a committed internationalist, he found religious enmity and national or racial prejudices abhorrent; as a committed rationalist, he found them incomprehensible.

He was particularly unforgiving towards state incitement to hatred - propaganda inciting hatred of "others", depicting others as enemies - and also state institutionalisation of hatred and the various forms of violence this generated: discrimination, apartheid, terror, not to mention various types of genocide.

He believed that the instigators of hatred were small-minded, self-serving people motivated by selfish or narrowly interpreted fleeting group interests. He could not entertain the idea of a clever, committed, selfless and highly educated intelligent person preaching hatred of others.

But SAKHAROV had no hatred of those afflicted with the disease of hatred.

He saw them as victims of malevolent propaganda and a meagre education, and, to his mind, the most effective remedy for this serious illness was a call to reason, to the humanity in the human being.”

- Quotation from the exhibition.

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2010/Sakharov_Exhibition2010.pdf