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Freedom delegation takes on thought police at all-Europe forum

Will our civilization, the noblest and mightiest mankind has ever seen, uphold the heritage of Jefferson and Locke, Milton and Voltaire, the unfettered contest for truth?

Or are we headed for something out of Orwell, where certain words and ideas are banned in ostensible service of the common good?

This was the haunting question when free-speech defenders from three countries teamed up to oppose thought control and advocate genuinely open dialogue in the public square, last week at a 58-nation conference in Warsaw, Poland.

I joined the delegation on behalf of our citizens' group, Americans for America, along with colleagues from a policy institute in Washington, a foundation in Denver, a think tank in Austria, and a grassroots group in Denmark.

The seven of us were with hundreds of civil-society activists and government representatives at the [Human Dimension Implementation Meeting](#), a forum on

human rights held annually by the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).



What I observed there bore out the dark irony friends had warned me about – OSCE’s proud legacy as a champion of human freedom, a product of the 1975 Helsinki Accords that helped the West defeat Soviet totalitarianism, risks morphing into an instrument of Orwellian repression in the guise of policing hate speech.

Our group took on the thought nannies during three days of the two-week conference, September 13-15, when plenary sessions were addressing such benign-seeming topics as equal rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance, and non-discrimination.

[Read the full report including my three talks at the forum](#)

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