

the stability of that entire region, including Israel.

At the same time, Jews throughout the world have watched as the terrible specter of anti-Semitism re-emerges in Europe. Jewish cemeteries have been vandalized. Synagogues and Jewish schools have been the targets of terrorism. School children have been attacked for no other reason than they were identified as Jews.

At the recent Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism held by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Elie Wiesel expressed the shock and surprise shared by many of us who hoped that Europe could not so soon forget the history and lessons of the Holocaust.

"Had any pessimist told me," Wiesel said, "that in my lifetime, I would hear stories of Jews in Berlin or Paris being advised by friends not to wear a [skullcap] in the street so as not to attract hostility and peril, I would not have believed it. But it now has become reality."

Wiesel concluded by warning the conferees that "the history of Nazism teaches us that hatred is like cancer. It often grows underground, and when detected it is too late. If unchecked immediately, it will invade its natural surroundings. What began in the mind will destroy the brain. Then the heart."

The OSCE's Berlin Declaration, calling for a coordinated, international response against the crimes of anti-Semitism and racism, was an important step forward for Europe and the world. But its words must be backed with real action and commitment.

It is not enough to speak out against racist attacks. Wherever the crime of anti-Semitism is committed, the world has a shared responsibility to ensure the perpetrators are punished.

Therefore, I have asked the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to follow through on each of the recommendations of the Berlin Declaration.

In addition, later today Senator DODD and I will send a letter to the Commission calling on it to investigate why 10 years after the bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, none of the terrorists responsible have been brought to justice.

The United States must make a clear statement. If you wish to be a member of the family of nations, you cannot turn a blind eye to the violence of anti-Semitism and racism.

We are all bound by a common obligation to fight for justice and to fight for peace. And in a way, Rosh Hashanah can serve as a reminder of these shared responsibilities.

This year also represents another anniversary celebrated by Americans and the American Jewish community in particular. 2004 marks the centennial of the birth of one of America's greatest writers and storytellers, Isaac Bashevis Singer.

In a story entitled, "Joy," Singer tells of a Rabbi from a small Russian

village who suffers the loss of each of his six children. His faith is shaken, and he turns his back on his tradition and community. On the eve of Rosh Hashana, he sees a vision of his youngest daughter who had died many years earlier, and his faith is restored. He immediately goes to the synagogue and asks to speak. Because of the lunar calendar, Rosh Hashana always coincides with the new moon. So he asks, what is the meaning of the fact that "the moon is obscured on Rosh Hashanah?"

The answer, he says, is that "on Rosh Hashana one prays for life, and life means free choice, and freedom is mystery. . . . If hell and paradise were in the middle of the marketplace, everyone would be a saint.

"Of all the blessings bestowed on man, the greatest lies in the fact that God's face is hidden from him.

"Men are the children of the Almighty, and He plays hide and seek with them. He hides His face, and the children seek Him, while they have faith that He exists."

In a way, the search that Singer speaks of connects us all. Individually and as a nation we try to find the wisdom and the courage to do what is right, and to extend justice here at home and throughout the world.

The way may not always be clear. But alongside our friends in the Jewish community, this Rosh Hashana we can recommit ourselves to creating a world where no one, anywhere in the world, suffers the kind of persecution and violence that led that small band of Jewish settlers to flee half way across the world more than 350 years ago. The memory of their voyage and the beginning of Rosh Hashana remind us of this historic aspect of our Nation's role in the world, and call us back to our duty.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today marks the 10th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. We are also coming up on the 2nd anniversary of the loss of two champions of the fight to end domestic violence.

Senator Paul Wellstone was a key leader in the bipartisan effort to pass the Violence Against Women Act. And, as she was in every great cause he took on, Sheila Wellstone was Paul's indispensable partner. Paul and Sheila's commitment to ending domestic violence continues today through the work of Wellstone Action and the Sheila Wellstone Institute. This morning, Paul and Sheila's work was recalled at a gathering here in the Capitol of people who are working to protect America's families from domestic violence. We applaud them.

Much good has come about because of the Violence Against Women Act. There are more domestic abuse hotlines today than there were 10 years ago, and more shelters. There are more doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers, police officers, judges and others today who recognize the signs of domestic vi-

olence, and know how to help if they see those signs. We have made progress. But there is more we need to do.

Each year, more than 1 million women in America are victims of domestic violence, and more than 3 million American children witness domestic violence every year. Protecting the victims of domestic violence is essential but it is not enough. Next year, when Congress reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act, we need to do more to prevent domestic violence, and to help the children who witness such violence. It's the only way we will ever break the cycle of violence.

In South Dakota, in Rapid City and on the Pine Ridge Reservation, a non-profit organization called Sacred Circle is helping to break the cycle of violence by providing domestic violence prevention and intervention services. There are similar organizations doing good work in communities all across America—native and non-native, rich and poor.

On this 10th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, we thank those organizations for the life-saving work they are doing. We acknowledge the victims and survivors of domestic violence. And let us also vow to do even more to finally break the cycle of domestic violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

#### ROSH HASHANAH AND HOPE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is entirely appropriate that the Senate pause today at the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. This, the people's body—the House of Representatives and the Senate—demonstrate their great respect for a very important Jewish holiday that symbolizes so much that is important not only in terms of their faith, but also underlies a very important value and spirit of this country, and that is the spirit of hope and optimism, portrayed by the dipping of apples into honey, symbolizing that one is going to have a better, more hopeful, and sweeter year. It is a message of hope, and it reminds us of a long tradition that hope is deeply rooted in a spiritual setting. It is entirely appropriate for us as a nation as well to share that sense with our Jewish friends, and also draw lessons from that very special occasion.

So I pay tribute to all of our friends who are celebrating this spiritual holiday today and thank them again for reminding us as a nation and reminding the world of that extraordinary spirit, which is reflected in that tradition and which is symbolized today in Israel in its continued struggle for existence and for religious liberty.

Mr. President, I speak today about this issue of hope, and where it is and where it is not in terms of our own society, and what I think we should be attempting to do about it.