

# NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT



**NO  
HATE**

**Youth Campaign  
for Human Rights Online**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



## NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

The Internet allows users to create, publish, distribute and use media content in a multitude of ways, creating a space for creativity, communication and participation.

The development of social networks, in particular, has increased the level of youth participation in cyberspace in a variety of ways, ranging from keeping in touch with peers and developing new contacts to sharing content and self-expression. Online space, as well as offline space, presents new opportunities, challenges and threats to young people. In both, young people may be the victims and agents of abuse and human rights violations. Interaction online, even if democratised and uncensored, cannot be value-void. **Hate speech online has become in recent years a major form of human rights abuse, with very serious consequences both online and offline.**

Hate speech as such is not a new human rights issue. However, its online dimension and the potential negative impact on democratic development give new reasons for concern.

While easier to monitor and counter in mainstream professional media, the challenge posed by its online manifestation is the difficulty to monitor and measure its amplitude and impact.

**Hate speech, as defined by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, antisemitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin. For the purpose of the campaign, other forms of discrimination and prejudice, such as anti-gypsyism, christianophobia, islamophobia, misogyny, sexism and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity fall clearly within the scope of hate speech.**

**Young People Combating Hate Speech Online** is a project being run by the Council of Europe's youth sector between 2012 and 2014. It aims to combat racism and discrimination in the online expression of hate speech by equipping young people and youth organisations with the competences necessary to recognise and act against such human rights violations.

The whole project is a tribute to youth participation and co-management. It was born from a proposal of the youth representatives of the Advisory Council on Youth and was endorsed by the Joint Council on Youth (in which youth leaders and government representatives makes decisions together on policies, priorities and programmes).

## **SURVEY ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND HATE SPEECH**

Between August and October 2012 an initial online pilot survey was conducted on young people's perception of hate speech and the impact it has on them. The survey has provided basic information so that the campaign and project's development is based on the expectations and needs of young people.

## **EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION GRANTS**

The Foundation, based on the decisions of the Council of Europe's Programming Committee on Youth, supported 36 youth projects in preparation for the campaign with grants totalling 160,300 €. Youth organisations can also apply for grants for activities to implement national campaign activities in 2013.



## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

### **TRAINING COURSES FOR ONLINE ACTIVISTS AND BLOGGERS**

60 young online activists will be trained in the European Youth Centre between 2012 and 2013. They are young people already active in the online sphere who are able to pass on their knowledge and mobilise young people. The training is based on blended learning and focuses on such issues as: human rights, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, online campaigning, and building and activating online communities. These activists play an important role in the campaign, notably as potential moderators of the campaign platforms.

A workshop on *Campaigning against Hate Speech* trained fifty online activists for the national campaigns. The participants in the workshop, funded by the EEA Norway Grants, also provided input to the Conference on Tackling Hate Speech Online, organised in Budapest on 27 and 28 November 2012.

### **WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVISTS AND ORGANISERS**

These are mostly organised at national level and serve to prepare and mobilise partners and fine-tune strategies for the campaign.

### **STUDY SESSIONS**

Educational activities are carried out in partnership with European youth organisations and take place in the European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe. The study sessions support the project by sharing practice and experience on the topic among youth workers and leaders and bringing the campaign close to young people. The programme of the European Youth Centres includes sessions co-organised with the *Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Integration, Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe, Human Rights Education Youth Network, United for Intercultural Action* and *Service Civil International*.



# THE NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT ONLINE YOUTH CAMPAIGN

A campaign is needed to raise awareness, change attitudes and mobilise people to act together to uphold human rights on-line. Campaigning is also a way to bring together and unite everyone involved around common goals and values. The Council of Europe has a tradition of youth campaigns, notably the “All Different - All Equal” campaign.

The campaign - **No Hate Speech Movement** - will be open to anyone aged 13 or over to join online. It will be based on online communities of young people motivated to discuss and act against hate speech online.

The campaign will be launched on 22 March 2013 and will run through to April 2014. National campaigns may start earlier and continue after April 2014.

## A YOUTH CAMPAIGN

The campaign was shaped by several consultations, preparatory meetings with experts, youth workers and young people, ensuring it is not only a campaign for young people but, especially, a campaign *by* young people and *with* young people. Young people play the pivotal role in the campaign by taking part in online and offline activities and in being its most important advocates.

The campaign is being led by young people aged between 13 and 30 and is addressed to everyone.

## A CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ONLINE

The campaign is not designed to limit freedom of expression online. Neither is it about everyone being nice to each other online. It is against hate speech online in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as cyber-bullying and cyber-hate. The campaign focuses on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy.

## A MULTI-FACETED CAMPAIGN



### The goals of the campaign are:

- **To raise awareness** of hate speech online and the risks it poses for democracy and individual young people.
- **To promote** media and Internet literacy.
- **To support young people** in standing up for human rights, online and offline.
- **To reduce the levels of acceptance** of online hate speech.
- **To mobilise**, train and create a network of online youth activists to defend human rights.
- **To map** hate speech online and develop tools to combat it.
- **To support and show solidarity** to people and groups targeted by hate speech online.
- **To advocate** the development of and consensus on European policy instruments combating hate speech.
- **To develop youth participation and citizenship** online.

Although based online, the campaign will also have important offline elements and activities like training courses, seminars, conferences, youth events, festivals and flashmobs.

Local and linguistic differences are very important; so the online campaign has been designed to allow for national, cultural and linguistic diversity. All aspects of hate speech should be considered when analysing the problem and taking action so that motivation, content, tone, context, targets, and the potential implications of hate speech are taken into account.

The campaign will highlight the importance of involving school communities as well as non-formal education and youth work.

### **CAMPAIGNS WITHIN THE CAMPAIGN**

The campaign is based on a European platform and a programme of activities run by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe -under the responsibility of the Joint Council on Youth. This is the European umbrella under which national/local campaigns will be carried out.

The national campaigns are implemented with the active involvement of non-governmental and governmental representatives in the field of youth, in the spirit of co-management. Responsibility for initiating the campaign committees lies with the governmental youth partners of the Council of Europe (through the European Steering Committee on Youth). However, in cases where no committee has been set up, the Council of Europe welcomes joint initiatives from non-governmental partners in the countries concerned.

National campaign committees are currently being set up in some 30 countries; it is expected that others will soon follow and that by 21 June 2013 most of the Council of Europe's 47 member states will have a campaign up and running.

The campaign is designed to be everyone's campaign: any organisation or individual should feel free to join and to take action whether alone or together with others.



"MAP FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE ONLY"

### **ONLINE CAMPAIGN TOOLS**

♥ **NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT** [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org)

Online platform for user-generated content uploaded by young people with their emotional and rational contributions and ideas on hate speech and identity. This site is the main landing page of the campaign, open to the general public, with testimonials including self-made videos and photos. Young moderators oversee safety and ensure respect for the campaign's values.

♥ **HATE SPEECH WATCH** [www.hatespeechwatch.org](http://www.hatespeechwatch.org)

Online database to collect, monitor and discuss hate speech content on the Internet. This is a user-generated online engine where registered users can link in any hate speech content from the Internet. Users can tag the posts, comment on them and discuss them. Moderators monitor and ensure the smooth running of

the site, creating focus topics every month based on the main interests of the online community.

Special “take action” features will also be available if the hate speech content discussed requires further action – the perfect place for online activists!

**The No Hate Speech Movement platform and Hate Speech Watch are developed and maintained by the Council of Europe in English and French. National campaign organisers are given language-neutral versions of these to customise for their national campaigns.**



### **CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT**

This tool provides knowledge and information about the campaign and gives concrete practical and methodological support in online campaigning – useful for individuals and organisations interested in taking the campaign into their own hands.

### **LEARNING ABOUT HATE SPEECH**

This online learning module provides a quick and easy overview of hate speech and its online dimension to allow all those interested in understanding and helping others to understand why combating hate speech is central to promoting human rights.

### **SCHOOL CAMPAIGN PACK**

The campaign has an educational dimension, it is essential therefore that it reaches schools. The Council of Europe is developing a campaign pack for secondary schools to support teachers and educators in addressing online hate speech with students and to involve secondary school students in the online campaign.

Other online tools may follow and, in particular, may be developed by national campaign committees. Other successful Council of Europe educational tools, such as *Compass*, *Composito*, the *All Different – All Equal Education Pack* and *Enter Dignityland!* remain available for educational and awareness-raising purposes.

See also: [www.coe.int/compass](http://www.coe.int/compass)

**All three tools are available in English on the campaign sites, and the Council of Europe provides them to national campaign organisers to be translated and used for national campaigns free of charge.**

### **CAMPAIGN COORDINATION WEBSITE**

This is the portal for campaign organisers and activists with updated information about the work behind the campaign. Organisations that are interested in taking part in the campaign can join on this website: [www.coe.int/youthcampaign](http://www.coe.int/youthcampaign)



## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2013-2014

The programme of activities of the campaign is open and evolving in order to respond to the needs of and proposals from partners and national campaigns. A regular and more complete programme can be consulted on the campaign website. The list below is indicative of the main activities already foreseen.

<b>13-14 MARCH 2013</b>	Workshop for national campaign coordinators, Brussels
<b>21 MARCH 2013</b>	Opening of the No Hate Speech online platform
<b>22 MARCH 2013</b>	Official launching of the campaign, Strasbourg
<b>6-14 APRIL 2013</b>	Training course for bloggers and online activists, Budapest
<b>15-16 APRIL 2013</b>	Training seminar for campaign moderators, Budapest
<b>APRIL-DEC. 2013</b>	European Action Days*
<b>20-21 JUNE 2013</b>	Activities related to the EuroDig Forum, Lisbon
<b>SEPTEMBER 2013</b>	European seminar for online activists
<b>17-18 OCTOBER 2013</b>	Side event at the Ministerial Conference on Media and Information Society "Freedom of expression and democracy in the digital age – opportunities, rights and responsibilities", Belgrade
<b>6-8 NOVEMBER 2013</b>	European campaign conference, Strasbourg
<b>10 DECEMBER 2013</b>	European Action Day – 10 December, Human Rights Day
<b>FEBRUARY 2014</b>	European Action day - Safer Internet day
<b>APRIL 2014</b>	Evaluation conference
<b>JUNE-JULY 2014</b>	Closing youth event

### \* EUROPEAN ACTION DAYS

Throughout the campaign several action days will focus on specific aspects and forms of hate speech: antisemitism, romaphobia, sexism, etc. Each action day will have a special programme and online activities coordinated by international youth organisations. Dates and topics of the action days will be updated regularly.



## SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### RESEARCH

At the end of 2011, in preparation for the project, the Council of Europe's Youth Department commissioned three "mapping" studies about the realities of hate speech and young people and the projects and campaigns about it. They are now published together as a resource for the campaign – *Starting Points for Combating Hate Speech Online*. Other research is being conducted to provide orientation on hate speech online and how it affects young people. The remit of this research is to identify and fill critical knowledge gaps.



## **PARTNERS** NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

The project and the campaign make use of the various tools and procedures available within the **Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation** of the Council of Europe, including the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg, the European Youth Foundation and the programme of intergovernmental cooperation. Connections will also be made with projects in the *Education Department*. Links with various other projects in the Directorate General of Democracy and of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (notably on Internet governance, media and the information society) are also being developed.

The **European Youth Forum**, the **European Youth Card Association** and the **European Youth Information and Counselling Agency** are actively supporting the implementation of the campaign.

The project is partly supported by Voluntary Contributions. To date, contributions have been received from **Finland** and the **French-Speaking Community of Belgium**.

The **EEA** and **Norway Grants** are a strategic partner for the campaign, especially in the countries covered by the EEA Grants NGO Programmes.

The Council of Europe welcomes offers of partnership and support for the campaign from non-governmental organisations.



## **MORE INFORMATION** AND CONTACT

For general information about the Council of Europe's activities on youth visit [www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth)

For more information about specific activities of this project visit [www.coe.int/youthcampaign](http://www.coe.int/youthcampaign)

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