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**NO HATE  
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# HATE SPEECH ON-LINE PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS



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## HATE SPEECH ON-LINE PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS

This booklet has been produced as part of the Seminar Log in for Human Rights, implemented by Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID), from 25th of July to 6th of August 2013, in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

**LOG IN for Human Rights** was a seminar for multipliers, that aimed to empower youth leaders and online activists to fight exclusion and discrimination in the cyber space and promote active youth participation and human rights using IT&Social Media.

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The booklet is part of group work of participants at the Seminar, developed as a tool to combat human rights violations and promote inclusion in online environment.

It is a practical publication for youth leaders and youth workers to intervene in hate speech online issues and will foster promotion of diversity online



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## HATE SPEECH ON-LINE PREVENTION AND SOLUTION

### ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM

#### *Definition of hate speech*

The term hate speech shall be understood as covering all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify **racial** hatred, **xenophobia**, anti-Semitism **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, but not restricted to this.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Hate speech targets*

There are a lot of groups that are targets of hate speech on-line – mainly on social media, but also on forums or in the comment sections of on-line newspapers. Some groups that are affected the most by hate speech on-line are: **ethnic** minorities (for example Roma people), **sexual** minorities (LGBTQI), **immigrants**, **religious groups**, **violence** victims, people with **diffabilities** (different abilities) and people with **fewer opportunities**.

#### *Causes for hate speech on line*

Main causes for hate speech online are: lack of education (people that don't have enough knowledge about certain issues tend to discriminate the groups that they have a wrong image of), prejudices and stereotypes, bad economic situation (in times of crisis people tend to look for people that can be blamed for the bad economic conditions), cultural background (all of us are brought up in a different way and they inherit thinking patterns of their families).

#### *Scale of the problem*

With the growth of the internet and social media the problem of hate speech is growing very fast. Internet is a place where people can share their opinions freely – that is why sometimes, feeling anonymous, they post things that are offensive and harassing for others. For sure that all of you have heard stories about people that were harassed on the internet (for example by rude comments under their pictures) or they had to change their schools because their classmates have posted embarrassing and humiliating videos/pictures with them.

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<sup>1</sup> (Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Recommendation on hate speech, 1997).

## ACTIVITIES AND GOOD PRACTICES

### ***Online surveys***

Online survey is conducted to identify the perception and impact that hate speech has among young people.

### ***Training courses for online activists and bloggers***

The training can be based on blended learning and could be focused on such issues as: human rights, antiracism and antidiscrimination, online campaigning; building and activating online communities.

### ***A Campaign Preparation seminar***

Its aim is to further develop expertise and good practices, to mobilise partners and to plan the preparation and implementation of the campaign at European level.

### ***Workshops for young bloggers***

Workshop for young bloggers on how to combat hate speech on-line, organised in connection with a conference on hate speech, jointly run by the Council of Europe and the EEA- Norway grants.

### ***Youth media campaign***

Youth media campaign aims to create a community of young people motivated to discuss and act against hate speech online and to place the issue of hate speech on the agenda of youth organisations.

### ***A campaign conference***

The conference looks at the overall achievements of the project and focuses on making policy guidelines proposals and ways to further the action of youth sector on the topic.

### ***No h8 campaign***

The NOH8 Campaign is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote marriage, gender and human equality through education, advocacy, social media and visual protest. For more details visit the Campaign website.

### ***The movement in the streets of Belgium***

This national movement was organized on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 in Flagey Square, Brussels, with a huge flashmob, musical activities and many others. During this day seminars and training courses about hate speech online were also available.

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## Links:

<http://act4hre.coe.int/>

<http://nohatespeechmovement.org/>

## FAQ's

### ***1. On what web sites you can encounter the most hate speech?***

Basically you can't find hate speech everywhere. Currently the most common tool for hate speech is social media like Facebook, YouTube, Tumblr... We have to emphasise that social media websites are also becoming more aware of the problem and provide tools to report hate speech.

### ***2. How do you recognise hate speech?***

Everyone sees hate speech in a different way. Something that offends one person may be perfectly acceptable for someone else. There are some key words that can help you to recognise hate speech such „hate“, „kill“, „destroy“, „rape“, „remove“, „faggot“, „bitch“.

### ***3. Where do you report hate speech?***

Most of the web sites nowadays have tools for reporting posts that are offensive for you. There are also some NGOs where you can report hate speech and they make legal cases out of them (for example European Foundation for Human Rights based in Vilnius, Lithuania). There are also some local institutions that deal with that topic and you can always contact them.

### ***4. Why people do it on-line?***

Some people feel more secure when expressing their opinion on the Internet, which gives them a feeling of being anonymous.

### ***5. What groups of people are the most targeted by hate speech on-line?***

There are different groups that are targeted by hate speech on-line: ethnic minorities, sexual minorities (LGBTQI), immigrants, religious groups, violence victims, people with disabilities (different abilities) and people with fewer opportunities.

### ***6. What group of people is the most active in „making“ hate speech on-line?***

Sadly, there are still a lot of people that start to use hate speech on line. Mostly they are people with less education, prejudices and stereotypes. People that use hate speech are a little close minded and are not tolerant towards people that are different.