



Recommendations from *Action and Campaigning Against Hate Speech Online*:
A training workshop for bloggers and online human rights activists on how to combat
hate speech online, organised by the Council of Europe and EEA and Norway Grants

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Education

We need a visible presence in schools, youth centres and higher education institutions of human rights education. This will be a preventive measure to hate speech, in a sense 'vaccinating' against hate speech. Not only teaching but showing children what they already know: that racism is invented, we are all humans first and everything comes next. We need a creative discussion between children and young adults about human rights principles and the concept of equality and diversity.

Training

- There is a need for essential further training and development of online youth work, in order for youth to effectively have an impact online but also create more awareness about online responsibility: really understanding the accountability of the individual content we post on the internet.
- Campaign toolkit: an on and offline resource on learning about hate speech in our national contexts and in a pan-European sense and how to address it
- Ethical journalism for young media activists on how to report and prevent hate speech. Also field training for activists on the best practices in engaging the wider society and how to communicate complex messages without losing your audience.

Research and Surveys

There is a necessity for support of this at a national level: available templates and guidelines on how to effectively collect data and use this data. We all agreed on the importance of creating a "Map of Hate" online to give an overview of the type of hate speech apparent and to show the differences and similarities of hate speech and the impacts within local communities.

Participation

This is crucial to the long-term objective: engaging all of society in this campaign; it is not a case of them and us but more of a wider societal problem. We are not advocating for more prosecution, more stigmatization but reaching out to all involved: the target of hate speech, perpetrators, witnesses, from the politician to the school child. Action to



combat hate speech should be an exercise in the freedom of expression and encouraging a debate on all levels of society. Enabling critical thinking of all is essential, for everyone to really understand the language we use and its implications in everyday interaction.

Coordination

The campaign portal should have information about the main pattern of events and dates in Europe to ensure cooperation and supportive events. For this there is a need for partnerships from all stakeholders for a cooperative exchange of information and resources. Clear communication channels to link national and the European campaign should break the barriers of a competitive and tribal approach.

Media

It is fundamental to create a multi-faceted media campaign, involving new and old media, to engage with different people. Online resources, radio, printed publications opens the campaign up to disseminating information in various forms. All campaigns should put targets of hate speech at the forefront, providing an online platform for survivors to share their experiences and thoughts, forming a “living library” for all to use. This should hold a mirror up to society, provoking people to analyse their own prejudice and address mainstream society beliefs, and essentially break the barrier of “them” and “us”.

Political Recognition

Certainly there is a need for financial endorsement to implement the logistics of a campaign but more importantly there needs to be political support in order for us to really have an impact in society. This is a serious long-term investment in combating hate speech in Europe. Youth cannot be isolated in their activism, we need political recognition to propel a local campaign to national significance. Governments need to make youth a priority in progression: youth need advice but we also need the opportunity, because we want to engage with politicians and have an impact in policy-making.

Finally, an awareness of the idea that hate speech towards the individual is an attack on us all, thus we have to tackle this together and not as a segregated movement. Our objective as a youth movement is social responsibility, awareness, empowerment and enabling critical thinking because speech and discourse are fundamental.