



Reporting in Belgium

National reporting procedures for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime

The information below is extracted from a mapping study of national reporting mechanisms in the countries involved in the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) of the Council of Europe. It aims to provide:

1. Contact information of national reporting mechanisms for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime where they exist

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe¹.

1. REPORTING MECHANISMS

Reporting hate speech

Individuals and organisations can report hate speech to national institutions but also to NGOs which are specialized in some types of discriminations.

Unia (Belgian Interfederal Equality Body):

Individuals as well as organizations can report (individual or more general) cases of discrimination, racism, hate speech, hate crime or cases of holocaust denial. Unia will verify whether there's possibly an infraction of the laws mentioned above and provide information and (legal) advise to the victim/reporter.

If there's a case of illegal hate speech (see 'incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence'), Unia will focus first of all on bringing down the content by appealing to the perpetrator or to intermediaries. In case of organized groups, repetition or cases of serious and immediate danger for society, Unia can call upon law enforcement agencies and file a legal complaint.

Unia collects data and publishes her statistics every year. In 2015 for example 654 cases related to media were reported to Unia (and Unia opened up 365 dossiers). Ninety-one percent of the reported cases concerned hate speech spread on the Internet. More figures can be found [online](#).

If the complaint is related to 1 of the 17 criteria for which the center is competent: the so-called "racial" criteria (alleged race, skin color, nationality, ancestry (Jewish origin) and national or ethnic origin), disability, philosophical or religious convictions, sexual orientation, age, fortune (financial resources), civil state, political convictions, trade union convictions, health status, physical or genetic characteristics, birth, social origin.

Website: <http://www.unia.be/nl>

Online form: <http://www.unia.be/en/report-discrimination>

Phone: 02 212 30 00

Email: info@unia.be

Institute for the equality of women and men

if the complaint is related to the sex criteria.

¹ The authors of this document aimed to be accurate and complete, if however you find corrections or have additions please contact the European campaign secretariat at youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. Reproduction of material from this publication is authorised for non-commercial education purposes only and on condition that the source is properly quoted.

Website: <http://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/fr/infos-et-aide>
Email: egalite.hommesfemmes@iefh.belgique.be
Phone: 02 233 42 65

MRAX (Movement Against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia):

if the complaint is related to the so-called "racial" criteria. This NGO conducts disincentives and provides legal assistance to victims of discrimination.

Website: <http://mrax.be/wp/victime-de-racisme/>
Email: juridique@mrax.be
Phone: 02 209 62 50

CCIB/CTIB (Collective Against Islamophobia in Belgium)

if the complaint concerns islamophobia. This NGO conducts disincentives and provides legal assistance to victims of discrimination.

Email: contact@islamophobia.be
Phone: FR 0484 05 79 77
NL 0488 93.20 02

CDJ (Journalistic ethics council):

if the complaint is related to an information media.

Website: lecdj.be/comment-introduire-une-plainte-au-conseil-de-deontologie-journalistique/
Email: cdj@lecdj.be

Reporting hate crime:

Unia (Belgian Interfederal Equality Body):

Victims of hate crime can report or ask for help and advice to Unia.

In Belgium, the office of the Public Prosecutor is competent to prosecute hate crimes. Victims can go to the police to lodge a complaint. Unia will - among other things - advise victims on their rights and on the possible steps they can undertake.

General data on hate crimes are collected and published by the office of the Public Prosecutor.

Website: <http://www.unia.be/nl>
Online form: <http://www.unia.be/en/report-discrimination>
Phone: 02 212 30 00
Email: info@unia.be

Reporting cyberbullying:

Police (hotline):

if the complaint is related to cyber harassment of an adult.

Website: <http://www.policelocale.be/5303/questions/criminalite-sur-internet/en-cas-de-cyber-harcelement-que-faire->
Phone: 101

Helpline of the Flemish Department of Welfare, Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk, en de Vertrouwenscentra Kindermishandeling:

if the complaint is related to any kind of cyber harassment.

Phone: 1712

Service Ecoute enfants (hotline for children)

if the complaint is related to cyber harassment of an under 18 years of age person.

Phone: 103
Website: <http://www.103ecoute.be/>

Complaint line of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Flemish Parliament:

if the complaint is related to cyber harassment of an under 18 years of age person. The complaint line listens, investigates and moderates. That means that anyone can call them for advice
Phone: 0800 20808

Help/hotline of Child Focus, the center for abused and missing children

Is part of the Safer Internet Centre for Belgium for complaints related to cyber harassment of an under 18 years of age person.
Phone: 116000

By calling those help/hotlines, people can ask help with or report all forms of violence, including bullying and similar issues.

Some are specifically dedicated to children, who can file a complaint if they feel discriminated or if they feel nobody is handling their cyber bullying situation. Adults can also call to report cases of bullying, stalking, grooming... and ask their help to take down compromising visuals of children on social media.

Those help/hotlines are not dedicated to hate or bullying, but covers all sorts of themes.