

## **No Hate Speech week 2024**

The No Hate Speech Week, 17-20 June 2024, is organised around the International Day for Countering Hate Speech. In 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which recognises the need to counter discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech and calls on all relevant actors, including states, to increase their efforts to address this phenomenon, in line with international human rights law. The resolution proclaimed the 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech.

The No Hate Speech Week aims to provide a space to exchange on recent legal and policy developments and good practices of implementation, innovations and foster synergies between key partners in the field of combating hate speech. The presence of different stakeholders provides networking opportunities that can enable a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach to preventing and combating hate speech in the member states.

The week is organised by the Anti-discrimination Department in the framework of the EU-CoE joint project Building Civil Society's capacities to tackle hate speech online and supported by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of Europe.

### **Intercultural Cities anti-rumours sessions**

Rumours are stories or pieces of stories that might be true or false and that have the characteristic of quickly spreading from a person to another. They are not systematically negative, but they can become very harmful when they are based on stereotypes, i.e. on unchecked and prefixed ideas about what someone or something is like.

Stereotypes feed into prejudice, which is an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling formed through a pre-judgment without enough thought or knowledge. At the level of today diverse societies, the spreading of stereotypes and prejudice through rumours can actually impact the way in which we relate to each other, the way in which we interact - or renounce to interact - with people of diverse origin and backgrounds.

Understood as a public policy, the anti-rumours strategy, is composed of a number of elements: identifying major rumours existing in a city; collecting objective data and also emotional arguments to dismantle false rumours; creating an anti-rumour network of local actors from civil society; empowering and training "anti-rumour agents"; and designing and implementing anti-rumour campaigns to raise awareness, including by creating and disseminating new tools and resources, both creative and rigorous.

Rumours, stereotypes and prejudices are the first step towards feeding hate, which may lead to hate speech and sometimes to hate crime. The anti-rumours sessions organised by the ICC programme in the framework of the No Hate Speech Week 2024 are designed to give participants a better understanding of the anti-rumours methodology and how it can be used to counter hate speech.

**Draft Programme for ICC participants**

**Location:** Palais de l'Europe, Room tbc, 1, avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg

**Trainer:** Daniel de Torres Barderi, ICC Expert and Director of the ICC Spanish Network, RECI

**Target Group:** technical staff of ICC member cities and networks active in the area of preventing and countering hate speech, alternative and counter-narratives, anti-rumours strategy.

**Capacity:** 25 representatives of ICC member cities and networks

**DAY 1 – 18 JUNE 2024**

TIME	SESSION	ICC PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE
8:30	Registration	
9:15	Welcome and technical announcements	
9:30-10:30	Official opening of the No Hate Speech Week and marking the international day to	Compulsory attendance
10:45	Developments and trends in combating hate speech through counter-narratives and education initiatives, expert inputs	Compulsory attendance
12:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Anti-rumours workshop (75 min) (Introduction to the methodology)	Compulsory attendance
15:15	Coffee break	
15:45	Anti-rumours workshop (75 min) (How can the methodology be used to prevent and counter Hate Speech)	Compulsory attendance
17:30	Award ceremony and Reception for Journalists promoting positive image of Roma	Compulsory attendance

### DAY 2 – 19 JUNE 2024

TIME	SESSION	ICC PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE
9:15	Opening of the day	
9:30	Thematic Plenary	Compulsory attendance
11:00	Coffee Break	
11:15	Anti-rumours workshop (60 min) (Practical exercise)	Compulsory attendance
12:15	Lunch	
13:30	Workshops	Free to pick the workshop they prefer
14:45	Coffee Break	
15:15	Workshops	Free to pick the workshop they prefer
16:30	Networking space	

### DAY 3 – 20 JUNE 2024 (NOT COVERED BY ICC)

TIME	SESSION	ICC PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE
9:30	Opening	Attendance at participants' own expenses
9:45	Workshops	
11:30	Networking space	
12:30	Lunch break	
14:00 – 15:30	Presentation of the Report on Promising practices on combating hate speech	
15:30 – 16:00	Closing plenary – taking stock of the Week	
16:30	Closing of the Fair of Good practices	