

## No Hate Speech Week 2026

Strasbourg, 17-19 June 2026

### Call for participants

In a context of rising disinformation, polarisation and digital threats to democracy, hate speech remains one of the most corrosive forces undermining social cohesion and democratic values. Addressing it requires both principled action and practical innovation. That is why, in 2026, the Council of Europe is launching the third edition of the **No Hate Speech Week**, focusing on strengthening democratic responses and public mobilisation against hate speech.

The Council of Europe invites civil society organisations (CSOs) active at European and national levels, local and national authorities, as well as representatives of Equality bodies and Ombuds offices, academia, internet industry and other stakeholders to apply and take part in the No Hate Speech Week 2026. All interested candidates should apply by completing [the application form](#) by **10 March 2026**.

### No Hate Speech Week 2026

The No Hate Speech Week is an event organised by the Council of Europe with support of the European Union, to mark the **International Day for Countering Hate Speech** on 18 June. The Week also aims to promote Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on Combating Hate Speech and support multi-stakeholder cooperation to implement its recommended legal and non-legal measures. This year, the No Hate Speech Week forms part of the consultation process for a New Democratic Pact for Europe, initiated by the Council of Europe. The [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#) seeks to boost solutions that work and create new responses to reinforce democracy, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations.

The No Hate Speech Week provides an opportunity to exchange on recent legal and policy developments and good practices of implementation, innovations and foster synergies between key partners. 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 gathers a wide range of stakeholders who engage in preventing and combating hate speech, including representatives of national authorities, public figures and political bodies, CSOs active at European and national levels, equality bodies and Ombuds offices, academia, internet industry, the media, international organisations, and EU bodies (see also for example the recommendations for key actors in CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech).

The No Hate Speech Week is one of the key activities of the joint EU-Council of Europe project “Increasing civil society organisations’ knowledge and capacity to counter hate speech online” which



aims to improve the multistakeholder cooperation and coordination among civil society organisations (CSOs), public authorities and other stakeholders, enhancing their response to hate speech online using legal and non-legal measures. Participants from beneficiary and donor countries of the EEA and Norway Grants will be supported through the EEA and Norway Grants' Mission-Driven Initiative: Enhancing multi-stakeholder responses to hate speech and hate crime.

#### *Democracy Hackathon: Hack the Hate*

In 2026, the Council of Europe is launching two complementary initiatives under the New Democratic Pact for Europe: the second Hackathon focused on technical and civic innovation to tackle democratic backsliding, and the third edition of the No Hate Speech Week, focusing on strengthening democratic responses and public mobilisation against hate speech. A hackathon is a short, intensive collaborative event where people with different backgrounds work together to develop practical solutions to a shared challenge. Participants form teams, explore a concrete problem, and design ideas and policy-relevant tools to address it.

The Hackathon 2026 aims to generate actionable insights and technology-driven approaches to address the current democratic backsliding. The hackathon will bring together diverse stakeholders (policy experts, technology experts, civil society, and young innovators) to co-create practical solutions to combat hate speech in online spaces. In addition to developing their solutions, participants will be expected to outline practical implementation plans, identifying how their ideas could be further developed, tested, implemented or scaled.

#### **Theme for No Hate Speech Week 2026: 'Hate Speech – Free Democracy': Multistakeholder collaboration for preventing and combating hate speech and for inclusive democracy**

The rise of hate speech, setbacks in gender equality and women's rights and attacks on minority rights highlight the urgent need for renewed commitments. Furthermore, democratic participation relies on equal access and inclusion, yet racism, religious intolerance, anti-LGBTI attitudes, and antigypsism continue to undermine this principle. These forms of discrimination fuel hate speech, exclusion and barriers to meaningful engagement in public life, disproportionately affecting marginalised groups.

The No Hate Speech Week 2026 enhances multistakeholder cooperation to prevent hate speech which hinders democratic participation of vulnerable groups. The week will explore examples and collect ideas on what can be done to strengthen inclusive democratic spaces free from hate speech. The No Hate Speech Week provides an opportunity to exchange on recent legal and policy developments and good practices of implementation, innovations and foster synergies between key partners. The presence of different stakeholders provides networking opportunities that can enable a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach to preventing and combating hate speech in line with the CM Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16. This can cover a range of concrete measures to promote awareness raising, education, training, counter-narratives, alternative speech and intercultural dialogue, leveraging on the experience and knowledge of member States. Furthermore, it is crucial for member States to raise awareness of the extent of hate speech and the harm it causes to individuals, communities and democratic societies as a whole, the criteria used to assess it and ways to counter it, in particular through encouraging and supporting initiatives by relevant authorities, national human rights institutions, equality bodies and civil society organisations, including those representing individuals or groups that are likely to be targeted by hate speech.

### ***Methodological approach of the week - a collective success***

The No Hate Speech Week takes place in parallel to other meetings of Council of Europe and EU bodies, to which the programme of the Week will make links, including:

- Plenary sessions of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).
- Thematic sessions organised by the Intercultural Cities Programme (ICC).
- Project meetings of the Council of Europe Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Unit
- Thematic session on hate speech and Journalism Excellence Award ceremony on ethical reporting on Roma and Travellers and combating antigypsyism through the media
- Workstream on preventing hate speech and hate crime under the EU High Level Group.
- Meeting of the EEA and Norway Grants' Mission-Driven Initiative: Enhancing multi-stakeholder responses to hate speech and hate crime.
- Consultative meeting with CSO partners on the review of implementation of aspects of the CM/Rec(2022) on combating hate speech.
- Democracy Hackathon – Hack the hate, bringing together policy experts, technology expert, civil society, and young innovators to co-create practical solutions to combat hate speech in online spaces.

The programme of the week is designed to provide space for learning and networking between the different stakeholders – a multistakeholder approach in practice. The programme will include plenary sessions; workshops and working groups; networking sessions; social gatherings.

The Anti-discrimination Department will co-organise a series of workshops and working groups on a range of topics with CSO partners, other Council of Europe services and international partners. The workshops aim to be practical and facilitate exchange of experiences, resources, and tools on education and training, counter-narratives to hate speech, combating illegal hate speech and hate crime, working with the police services, prosecutors and the justice system, hate speech and media and many more. In addition to the workshops, a networking space will be set up to showcase promising practices and exhibit tools and resources, as well as foster informal discussions.

### ***Presenting a good practice***

The participants of the No Hate Speech Week are invited to present good practices from their work on countering hate speech. The presentations can have different formats such as:

- **Poster or Visual Display:** A poster prepared for the Fair of Promising Practices, or a visual exhibition of tools and resources that can be shared with other participants in the networking spaces.
- **Contribution to a Thematic Workshop:** Participation in a thematic workshop or co-facilitation of a workshop alongside other participants, sharing expertise, methods, or insights.

- **Input to the Hackathon Programme:** Participation in the Hackathon by providing thematic or technical expertise, or by bringing a team to compete in developing innovative solutions.
- **Engagement in Networking Activities:** Active contribution to the networking event, including informal discussions on topics related to your work in countering hate speech.
- **Any Other Contribution:** Any other form of practical experience, tool, method, or example from your work that you would like to share with other participants.

Please provide in your application form more details about a practice or resource you would like to share during the week. In case you do not have a specific good practice to share, you can add some information about the themes of your work that you would like to discuss with others during the networking space. In the Application form you can also indicate if you want information on possibilities to get involved in the Hackathon.

### ***Profile of participants – learning together***

The Council of Europe invites participants from its member states active on combating hate speech, in particular those who represent CSOs active at European and national levels, local and national authorities, as well as representatives of Equality bodies and Ombuds offices, academia, internet industry etc. to apply and take part in the No Hate Speech Week. The week will additionally gather media, elected officials, governmental representatives, police services, prosecutors, social and community workers and other partners.

Some 100 participants will be invited following this public call for expression of interest. Selection will be made based on experience and potential to engage in peer-to-peer exchange on evolving practices, projects and policies, ensuring a geographical and gender balance, and diversity of experiences and contributions. The applicants for the No Hate Speech Week 2026 should ideally fulfil the following selection criteria:

1. Based and actively working in any of the Council of Europe’s member states.
2. Demonstrate experience in countering hate speech within their nominating CSO, local and national authorities, equality bodies/Ombuds offices, academic institution, tech company or other private or public entity engaged in this topic.
3. Ability to work in English.
4. Willingness to present their work on countering hate speech through a workshop or a poster for the networking event (fair of promising practices) is an asset.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, age, colour, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics.

### **Financial and practical conditions for participation**

#### *Travel expenses*

Travel expenses for participants will be covered according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The payment of per-diems will be made by bank transfer after the activity. The programme starts at 9 am on 17 June and finishes at 3:30pm on the 19 June.

### *Accommodation*

Board and lodging for the No Hate Speech Week will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe will ensure if needed, accessible accommodation to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

### *Working languages*

English will be the working language of the No Hate Speech Week. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

### [How to apply to this call](#)

All candidates must apply by filling in the application form available [here](#).

The Council of Europe will select participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. Every effort will be made to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established, as appropriate.

The application form must be submitted on-line until **10 March 2026, 23.59 CET**.

For further information, please contact the Hate Speech, Hate Crime and AI Unit at [nohate@coe.int](mailto:nohate@coe.int)