

# Curbing hate speech and hate crime

## Action by the Council of Europe and its member states – in particular by France

High-level event organised by the French authorities and the Council of Europe at the 10<sup>e</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)

According to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, hate speech includes all types of expression that incite, promote, spread or justify violence, hatred or discrimination against a person or group of persons, or that denigrates them, by reason of their real or attributed personal characteristics or status. The development of new forms of media that allow the proliferation and amplification of hate speech calls for continued adaptation of efforts to combat and prevent hate speech and of the regulatory framework.

A hate crime is a criminal offence committed with a hate element based on one or more actual or perceived personal characteristics or status.<sup>1</sup> History has shown that the spread and trivialisation of hate speech were the first signs of hate crimes and tragedies in our societies.

The persistent and worrying increase of hate speech in Europe, particularly online, and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights and democracy in Europe have been highlighted by the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and other Council of Europe bodies, as well as by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. To counter these developments and establish and maintain inclusive

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<sup>1</sup> Personal characteristics or status includes, but is not limited to, “race”, colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. Since all human beings belong to the same species, the Committee of Ministers rejects, as does ECRI, theories based on the existence of different “races”. However, in this document, the term “race” is used in order to ensure that those persons who are generally and erroneously perceived as “belonging to another race” are not excluded from the protection provided for by legislation and the implementation of policies to prevent and combat hate crime.

societies, it is important that Council of Europe member states take effective and sustainable measures.

The Heads of State and Government of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe recalled in their [2023 Reykjavík Declaration](#) that "dignity and equality are the foundation of modern European societies". They committed themselves to "strengthening work towards inclusive societies without marginalisation, exclusion, racism and intolerance." The Council of Europe is working in many ways to honour these commitments.

In its first five years of existence, the CDADI, created in 2019, has developed important standards and tools for preventing and combating hate speech and hate crime. Its work led to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2022 of the Recommendation on the [combating hate speech](#) and in 2024 the Recommendation on [combating hate crime](#). These standards contain comprehensive guidelines on how to prevent and combat hate speech and hate crime and the prejudices that underlie them. CDADI is also organising a process of exchange of good practice and peer learning between member states to facilitate the implementation of these standards in all member states.

This high-level event will provide an opportunity to take stock of these achievements and define the way forward to effectively and sustainably prevent and combat hate speech and hate crime. Particular emphasis will be placed on actions undertaken in France, which is hosting this high-level event. In France, the fight against hatred and all forms of discrimination is a priority policy for the government. This commitment was reflected in the adoption of a new National Plan to Combat Racism, Anti-Semitism and Discrimination based on Origin (2023-2026) and a new National Plan for Equality and to Combat Anti-LGBT+ Hate and Discrimination (2023-2026).

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26 November 2024, 9.30 a.m.

Salle du Haut Conseil of the Arab World Institut  
1, rue des Fossés-Saint-Bernard, 75005 Paris and online

### PROGRAMME

#### 9.30 Opening statements

*Introduction and moderation Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director, Council of Europe*

- **Jean-Marc Berthon** Ambassador for the rights of LGBT+ people, France
- **Björn Berge** Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **Etienne Apaïre** General Secretary of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Radicalisation (CIPDR)

#### 10:00 Curbing hate speech and hate crime in Europe

*Introduction and moderation Dominique Steiger-Leuba, Vice-Chair of CDADI*

- **Pierre-Alain Fridez** Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Nicole Romain** Head of Communications & Events Unit of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- **Bertil Cottier** Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- **Jean-Marc Berthon** Ambassador for the rights of LGBT+ people, France
- **Gilbert Flam** International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism LICRA
- **Erik Adell Hellström** Chair of CDADI

*Interactive debate*

Speech by **Jack Lang** President of the Arab World Institut

Coffee break

11:30 **Curbing hate speech and hate crime in France**

*Introduction and moderation Ambassador Pap Ndiaye*

- **Mathias Dreyfuss** Inter-ministerial delegate for the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and anti-LGBT hatred (interim)
- **Etienne Apaire** General Secretary of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Radicalisation (CIPDR)
- **Claire Hedon** Human Rights Defender
- **Marion Adam** Head of the National Centre for Combating Online Hate (PNLH)
- **Alice Koiran** Head of the cyber threat detection unit of the Central office for combating cybercrime (OFAC)
- **Jean-Philippe Reiland** Director of the Central Office for Combating Crimes against Humanity and Hate Crimes (OCLCH)

*Interactive debate*

12h30 Closing statement by **Philippe Bailbé** Prefect, Cabinet Director, in his capacity as representative of **Othman Nasrou** Secretary of State for Citizenship and Combating Discrimination, France

Conclusions by **Erik Adell Hellström** Chair of CDADI