



Online workshop to create human rights-based narratives to counter anti-Roma and Traveller¹ hate speech

Organised in co-operation with the [European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network \(ERGO\)](#) and [Phiren Amencia International Network](#)

30 June – 1 July

“[WE CAN for human rights speech](#)” is a project being implemented by consortium of partners² who have created online tools to help activists to:

- [Analyse hate speech to find the appropriate response](#)
- [Develop human right-based narratives](#)
- [Plan how to effectively communicate their counter or alternative narrative campaigns](#)

The project team is organising an online workshop to help activists to develop mini-campaigns using human rights narratives to counter anti-Roma and Traveller hate speech and rhetoric. The workshop will be held on 30 June and the morning of 1 July.

Background

In its [General Policy Recommendation No. 13 on combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma](#), the [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance \(ECRI\)](#) recalls that anti-Gypsyism is “a specific form of racism, an ideology founded on racial superiority, a form of dehumanisation and institutional racism nurtured by historical discrimination, which is expressed, among others, by violence, hate speech, exploitation, stigmatisation and the most blatant kind of discrimination.”

The results of the monitoring activities of the Council of Europe, in particular those of the [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) and the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and evidence from other sources, show that Roma and Travellers in Europe suffer from widespread and persisting anti-Gypsyism and are the victims of various forms of discrimination, including hate speech which has exponentially increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.³

¹ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

² “WE CAN for human rights speech” is funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) and the Council of Europe. This website represents the views of the author only and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission and the Council of Europe do not accept any responsibility for the use that may be made of the information it contains. The project is being implemented by a consortium led by the [Council of Europe No Hate Speech and Cooperation Unit](#), and includes: [Active Watch](#), [APICE](#), a [Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe \(CEJI\)](#), and [Neue Deutsche Medienmacher e.V. \(NdM\)](#).

³ [European Roma Rights Centre \(2020\) Report: Roma Rights in the Time of Covid](#)

The [Conclusions of the 10th meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society](#) (26-27 November 2020) on Combating Hate Speech underlined that “Hate speech and antigypsyism continue to be the norm rather than the exception in public discourses all over Europe and one common denominator to it all seems to be that the Roma and Traveller victims are being blamed for their own suffering, exclusion and poverty and the many different kinds of historical and structural injustices that they face.” The conclusions also highlighted that “As experiences of discrimination, stigmatisation and violence against Roma and Travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic show, hate speech can lead to further incitement against Roma and Travellers, an increase of racially motivated violence and collective punishment, and therefore constituting a serious threat to the basic security and well-being of Roma and Travellers.”

The [ECRI GPR No 15 to Combat hate speech](#) recommends “discouraging and preventing hate speech through demonstrating the danger that it poses and through counter-speech, i.e., the reaffirmation of the values that its use threatens and challenges to the assumptions on which this use relies.”

The “WE CAN for human rights speech” workshop aims to do this through helping activists develop positive messages to push back against anti-Roma and Traveller rhetoric by walking them through each step of creating a campaign, from crafting a human rights-based message to creating the visuals with the help of a professional designer needed to communicate such messages.

Learning objectives and outcomes

This workshop will allow you to

- Develop insight in types of Anti-Roma and Traveller hate speech that can be addressed using counter and alternative narratives.
- Gain knowledge on how human rights-based narratives can be constructed as an effective response to tackle such hate speech
- Craft your own human rights-based narrative and messages.
- Turn your ideas into appealing visuals for online campaigns with the help of graphic designers
- Prepare a campaign in detail and run it following the workshop over the month of July and August.

Participation

30 representatives of national and European Roma and Traveller organisations, other human rights and anti-discrimination NGO’s, No Hate Speech Network members, and activists.

Workshop details

The workshop will take place online on 30 June and morning of 1 July.

Agenda

The workshop takes a participatory and learning by doing approach. Using practical online tools developed by the project to analyse instances of hate speech, constructing human rights-based narratives and messages and practical online campaigns. Campaign activists and Graphic designers will support you in the process.

On the morning of 30 June, we will look a bit closer at the challenge we need to address: anti-Roma and Traveller hate speech online, looking at the risks it poses to human rights and dignity of the Roma and travellers, and our own personal experiences with the problem and approaches to address it.

In the afternoon, we will focus on the values we stand for, namely human rights, discussing which human rights can work the best in facing of hate and discriminatory speech reviewed in the morning and how we can create our own human-right based messages in response or as an alternative.

On the morning of 1 July, we will focus on putting all this into practice, where we will start working on the campaign plan and work with graphic designers to help create the online messages using images, photos, cartoons, drawings etc.

A detailed agenda will be sent to confirmed participants before the workshop starts.

After the workshop

The workshop doesn't end with the last day of training: following the workshop, you and your team members will have roughly one week to complete your campaign plan and move to the implementation phase. July and August will be dedicated to sharing your campaign materials online, so altogether we can altogether make an effort to replace anti-Roma and Traveller hate speech with human rights-based narratives in some of the corners of the internet!

Throughout July and August, we will keep in touch to support you where needed, to share your posts and to hear from you on how your campaign materials perform.

Registration

Sounds interesting? Apply now! [Applications for registration are open until 21 June.](#)

Please note that registration does not mean automatic enrolment – we will send an email confirmation to selected participants after the registration closes.

For more information please contact anti-discrimination@coe.int

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