

Draft programme

Venue: Strasbourg, Agora Building, Room G03 and videoconferencing through KUDO

28-29 September 2020

(the times indicated refer to Strasbourg/Central European Summer Time – CEST)

Monday, 28 September 2020

Welcome and connectivity test for speakers and participants (9.00 - 10.00)

Opening (10.00 – 10.15)

Welcoming words by Maria Marouda, Chair of ECRI

Opening statement by Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy

Opening statement by Helena Dalli, European Union Commissioner for Equality

1st session – Why and how to communicate the Equality and Diversity Message? (10.15 – 11.30)

Why is it important to focus more on communication and how can we effectively communicate the equality and diversity message? What are our target audiences? What are our messages to each of these audiences? How do we frame our messages? What does “story-telling” mean?

Chair: Maria Marouda, Chair of ECRI

- Nils Muižnieks, Former Chair of ECRI and former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Europe Director of Amnesty International
- Michael O’Flaherty, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Director
- Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Chair of the Executive Board of EQUINET (European Network of Equality Bodies), member of the Bureau of ECRI and ECRI-member in respect of Croatia, Deputy Ombudsperson of Croatia
- Tatiana Baeva, Directorate of Communication of the Council of Europe

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

Coffee break (11.30 - 11.45)

2nd session – Communication strategies (11.45 - 13.00)

What does a communication strategy focus on and what does it need to contain? What is the role of heads of institutions in communication? How to engage with conventional media and build partnerships?

Chair: *Johan Friestedt, Executive Secretary, ECRI, Council of Europe*

- Barbara John, Chair of ECRI's Working Group on Civil Society and Equality Bodies
- Claire Hédon, Defender of Rights, France
- Els Keytsman, Co-Director at Unia (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities), ECRI-member in respect of Belgium
- Ana Tretinjak, Office of the Ombudswoman, Croatia

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

Lunch break (13.00 – 14.30)

3rd session – Social media: Communicating with youth and other target audiences (14.30 - 15.45)

How can we use the Internet and social media to reach our public and communicate our messages? How can we mobilise youth? How can we avoid that social media are dominated by racist and intolerant groups?

Chair: *Mats Lindberg, ECRI Secretariat, Council of Europe*

- Niklas Hofmann, Federal Antidiscrimination Agency, Germany
- Emmerson Sutton, Lewisham's Young Mayor team, United Kingdom
- Maria Swanljung, Office of Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland
- Magid Magid, Somali-British activist, writer and former elected politician

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

Coffee break (15.45 - 16.00)

4th session – Good practice: examples of successful communication (16.00 - 17.15)

What are our success stories in communication and what can we learn from them? Where have we successfully joined forces for communication?

Chair: *Zeynep Usal-Kanzler, ECRI Secretariat, Council of Europe*

- Ekaterine Skhiladze, Deputy Public Defender of Georgia
- Brian Dawson, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Ireland
- Cllr Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability, Member of the Council of Europe Network of Intercultural Cities, Lewisham, United Kingdom
- Robert Gajda, Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination, Albania

Closing of the working day



Tuesday, 29 September 2020

Welcome and connectivity test for speakers and participants (9.00 - 09.30)

5th session – Mutual reinforcement of communication and lessons learned (9.30 - 10.45)

How can Equality Bodies, international human rights institutions and other stakeholders join forces and improve the overall impact of our communication? What did we pick up from yesterday's discussion and what do we want to drive forward?

Moderators: *Wolfram Bechtel, ECRI Secretariat, Council of Europe and Sarah Cooke O'Dowd, EQUINET*

Coffee break (10.45 - 11.00)

6th session – Wrap-up session (11.00 - 11.25)

- Conclusions of the General Rapporteur Michael Farrell, ECRI, Vice-Chair (10')

**Exchange of views under the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe**

**Long-term effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Equality, Racism
and Intolerance**

Tuesday, 29 September 2020, 11.30 – 12.30

This exchange of views focuses on the long-term effects of the pandemic on equality, racism and intolerance.

The Covid-19 pandemic has immediately had many adverse effects on the different groups which are of concern to ECRI and national Equality Bodies. ECRI, Equinet and national Equality Bodies have all contributed in various ways to deal with this immediate impact of the pandemic and to protect vulnerable people during the lockdown phase.

Experts foresee that the pandemic will unfortunately also have long-term effects on different groups and in various fields. The unfolding economic crisis will for example have a negative impact on the employment among vulnerable groups. Shrinking public budgets and prolonged social distancing could hinder them to access public services. Children from vulnerable groups could continue to face challenges in accessing school due to a lack of digital devices and Wifi, if distance learning is to be put in place again or continued.

The participants of this exchange of views are invited to show ways how to address these long-term effects.

Venue: *Strasbourg, Agora Building, Room G03 and videoconferencing through KUDO*

Opening

- Ambassador Panayiotis Beglitis, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

Moderation and short keynote

- Maria Marouda, Chair of ECRI

Short keynotes

- Andreas I. Pottakis, Greek Ombudsman
- Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Chair of the Executive Board of EQUINET, member of the Bureau of ECRI and ECRI-member in respect of Croatia, Deputy Ombudsperson of Croatia

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

- Concluding words Maria Marouda, Chair of ECRI

Special event: the role of equality bodies in combating hate speech

Tuesday, 29 September, 14.30 - 18.30 and Wednesday, 30 September, 9.30 – 12.00

ONLINE EVENT

If you wish to join this event, please write an email to Mara Georgescu,

mara.georgescu@coe.int

The special event has the following objectives:

- Engage Equality bodies in an exchange of views on their roles and mandates in combating hate speech and the challenges they face
- Present good practices from Council of Europe co-operation project countries on combating hate speech
- Involve Equality bodies in the development process of an online resources on ECRI's General Policy Recommendation 15 on Combating hate speech.

Session 1: Setting the scene on the role of equality bodies in combating hate speech

Tuesday, 29 September 2020, 14.30 – 16.00

This session will include a presentation, followed by a discussion session, of the Comparative Study: "Strengthening Equality Bodies in the Western Balkan Region in the Field of Hate Speech", Barbara Liegl & Katrin Wladasch, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights – Research Association (BIM-FV). Presentation of the comparative study will be accompanied with specific account of the findings and recommendations deriving from the country report on Serbia, by Goran Miletic – Civil Rights Defenders.

Opening remarks:

- *Angela LONGO, Programme Manager, No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit, Anti-Discrimination Department, Council of Europe*
- *European Union, DG NEAR (tbc)*

Break: 16.00 - 17.30

Session 2: Informal exchange of views between equality bodies, content experts and the secretariat of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech

Tuesday, 29 September 2020, 17.30 – 18.30

During this session, equality bodies involved in the co-operation projects of the Council of Europe, notably the Horizontal Facility and the Partnership for Good Governance and beneficiaries of the project "Combating discrimination in Morocco", will exchange views with two thematic expert in area of Freedom of Expression and combating hate speech and a member of the secretariat of the newly formed Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech of the Council of Europe on the realities of hate speech in their respective countries.

- Sejal Parmar, Assistant Professor of Law, Department of Legal Studies, Central European University Budapest
- Nadejda Hriptievschi, Director of programmes at Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM)
- Menno Ettema, Co-secretariat to Expert Committee on combating hate speech ADI/MSI-DIS

Session 3: Good practices and challenges related to the role of equality bodies in combating hate speech

Wednesday, 30 September 2020, 09.30 – 12.00

This session will have the format of an exchange of views on the realities of hate speech in Europe, and secondly, it will also focus on good practices from the countries where the Council of Europe implements co-operation activities on combating hate speech.

Lessons learnt from the experience of Equality bodies in combating hate speech

- Erinda Ballanca, Ombudsperson of Albania
- Yan Feldman, Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, Republic of Moldova

Good practices of combating hate speech, on the basis of the provisions of GPR 15

- Ekaterine SKHILADZE, Public Defender's Office, Georgia
- Sinisa Bjekovic, Ombudsperson of Montenegro

Presentation of draft online resource on GPR 15 and discussion

- Dariusz Grzemny and Jeremy McBride, experts

Concluding remarks by Irena Guidikova, Head of the Inclusion and Anti-discrimination Division, Council of Europe