



Reporting in 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'

National reporting procedures for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime

The information below is extracted from a mapping study of national reporting mechanisms in the countries involved in the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) of the Council of Europe. It aims to provide:

1. Contact information of national reporting mechanisms for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime where they exist
2. Information about the legal grounds for acting on cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime where they exist

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe¹.

1. REPORTING MECHANISMS

Reporting hate speech and hate crime

National institutions which are responsible to receive reports on hate speech are: the police, the public prosecution and the Ombudsman. There are several non-governmental organizations which work in the area of hate speech and citizens can report hate speech cases to them. There is however no nationwide approach by any of those organisations. The Ministry of Interior has a “red button” on its web-site where you can report hate speech or hate crimes, although it has not always functioned well.

The Macedonian Helsinki Committee has established a web-platform where anyone can report hate speech and a similar web-platform where anyone can report hate crimes. These have shown to be useful in order to keep track of the most common grounds of hate speech and hate crimes. Both platforms provide useful statistical information.

People can report cases of hate speech which they have been a victim of, or they have witnessed. Citizens can report online, by giving general information about the case/incident, location and they can include an image (printscreen) or link to the noted hate speech. If there is a familiar perpetrator, the Helsinki Committee files a complaint to the Ministry of Interior, specifically to the Department for electronic and computer crime.

Website: <http://redbutton.mvr.gov.mk/>
www.govornaomraza.mk

Email for information on the reporting platform on hate speech:
elena.brmbeska@mhc.org.mk

Ombudsman office website: <http://ombudsman.mk/en>

Reporting cyber bullying

¹ The authors of this document aimed to be accurate and complete, if however you find corrections or have additions please contact the European campaign secretariat at youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. Reproduction of material from this publication is authorised for non-commercial education purposes only and on condition that the source is properly quoted.

There are no mechanisms for reporting cyberbullying

2. Background information:

There is no one, comprehensive well-developed definitions of hate speech. In the Criminal Code, there are several articles which cover the issue of hate speech, such as “incitement of hatred based on national, racial, religious or other form of discrimination”. The article has an open list of grounds (“and other grounds”), which enables us to submit complaints on other basis, such as sexual orientation which is not explicitly mentioned in the law.

Hate speech online is covered in an article of the Criminal Code, which states “the spread of racist and xenophobic materials by using computer system” and it includes the incitement of hatred. The “definition” is not limited, it numbers several target groups on different basis (some of which are not suitable as grounds for hate speech), in fact, it is quite an open list, which at times is problematic.

There is no specific and precise definition for hate crime in the law. Still, Article 39 point 5 of the Criminal Code, predicts that when sentencing, the Court will take in consideration if the criminal act in question is committed based on prejudices or out of hate based on some of the protected characteristic. The online aspect is predicted in the criminal acts which are considered as hate crimes, but are committed via internet or computer system.

The platforms www.govornaomraza.mk and www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk provide an overview of received reports and statistical data.