

HATE CRIME

HELP

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe



Hate Crime

HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 5 hours

Available for free on the CoE
HELP e-learning platform

Statement of
Accomplishment

START COURSE 

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme 2023



Background

Hate crime and is a growing problem across Europe. It is a manifestation of intolerance toward certain groups in society. Although the phenomena of hate crime along with hate speech are very much interconnected, they require their own specific responses.

The Council of Europe (CoE) HELP online course on Hate crime aims at enhancing the necessary knowledge and skills of legal (and other) professionals in understanding the impact of hate crime on victims, communities and society and identifying effective responses.

The course was developed jointly by the CoE Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP; www.coe.int/help) with the contribution of the CoE Media and Internet Governance Division and the No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit, under the project "[Fighting discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Georgia](#)" and the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR) with the contribution of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

This online course as well as its complimentary online course, [Hate Speech \(3 hours\)](#), were developed by the CoE Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP; www.coe.int/help) with the contribution of the CoE Media and Internet Governance Division and the No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit.

Hate crimes violates various fundamental rights and are the gravest form of discrimination causing harm to individual victims, their communities and society.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has held that public authorities have a duty to take all reasonable steps to "unmask" the bias motive that drives hate crimes. This is not always easy. Evidence of bias motivation can be difficult to identify, victims are often reluctant to come forward and remain engaged in the criminal justice process while professionals do not always have the skills or the means to capture the crucial information that will make the difference between a successful hate crime prosecution and a denial of justice.

About the course

The overall length of each course module is approximatively one hour. So you may need 5 hours to complete this course in its English version. The updated courses will be available in English and, progressively and depending on countries' interest, in other languages at <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>. When national adaptations become available, you may need to add extra time to absorb complementary learning materials related to the national legislation, case-law and context.

Target audience

This free online course is addressed to legal professionals (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) as well as any other professional and entity combating hate crime.

Course outline

The course consists of 4 substantive modules:

1	Introduction to hate crime and hate speech
2	The concept of hate crime
3	International legal framework
4	Investigation, prosecuting and sentencing hate crime

How to access the HELP online course

To access the course, simply go to the HELP e-learning platform at <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>. If you do not have a HELP account, first register to create one, it takes a mere two minutes.