



Reporting in Latvia

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

State Police

For crimes committed against Article 150 Incitement of Social Hatred and Enmity

Website: <http://www.vp.gov.lv>

Phone: + 371 67075212

Email: kanc@vp.gov.lv

Security Police

For crimes committed against Article 78 of the criminal code: Triggering of National, Ethnic and Racial Hatred

Website: <http://dp.gov.lv>

Phone: +371 67208964

Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Report of hate speech and crime on all grounds in Latvia, Russian and English

Website: <http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/database/report-hate-crime/> <http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/database/report-discrimination/>

Email: office@humanrights.org.lv

LGBT union “Mozaika”

Report of hate speech and crime on all grounds, but specially LGBT related

Website: <http://www.naidanoziegumi.lv/zino-par-naida-noziegumu>

Email: office@mozaika.lv

Reporting cyberbullying

Net-safe Latvia

NGO deals with all reports of hate speech, including especially cyberbullying.

Website: <http://www.drossinternets.lv/page/32>

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.

Email: info@drossinternets.lv

People can report electronically and by mail to NGOs and the Security Police or in written form to State Police.

Actions taken after reporting:

In case of hate crimes: The police consider initiation of criminal proceeding;
NGOs evaluates and can either help to report to the police or inform the victim what to do.

In case of hate speech: The police consider initiation of criminal proceeding;
NGOs: Depending on an incident - report the abuse to the editors/owners of the website; help to report to the police; report to the police on its own

The Security Police has in average 20 criminal proceedings per year (mainly online hate speech)
LCHR receives average 15-20 per year (mainly online hate speech)

2. Background information

There are no concrete definitions for hate speech, hate crime and cyberbullying, but, through national legislations, various chapters are addressing these issues:

Criminal Code

Section 78. Triggering of National, Ethnic and Racial Hatred

For a person who commits acts directed towards triggering national, ethnic, racial or religious hatred or enmity, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term up to three years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

(2) For a person who commits the same acts, if they are committed by a group of persons or a public official, or a responsible employee of an undertaking (company) or organization, or if it is committed utilizing an automated data processing system, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term up to five years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

(3) For committing the act provided for in Paragraph one of this Section, if it is related to violence or threats or if it is committed by an organized group, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term up to ten years, with or without probationary supervision for a term up to three years.

Section 150. Incitement of Social Hatred and Enmity

(1) For a person who commits an act oriented towards inciting hatred or enmity depending on the gender, age, disability of a person or any other characteristics, if substantial harm has been caused thereby, the applicable punishment is temporary deprivation of liberty or community service, or a fine.

(2) For the criminal offence provided for in Paragraph one of this Section, if it has been committed by a public official or a responsible employee of an undertaking (company) or organisation, or a group of persons, or if it committed using an automated data processing system, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term up to three years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

(3) For the act provided for in Paragraph one of this Section, if it is related to violence or threats or if it is committed by an organised group, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term up to four years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

For additional information also consult the [Country Monitory reports](#) of the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance or reports of relevant national authorities and civil society organisations.