

Challenging Hate: Protecting Human Rights and Strengthening Democracy

Conference hosted by the European Centre for the Study of Hate in association with the Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion

Conference Programme

Day 1 – 28 May 2026

Time	Details
Gam	Registration, tea and coffee
G:30am– G:35am	Welcome to the University of Limerick Professor Colin Fitzpatrick, Vice-President Global and Community Engagement, University of Limerick Professor Jennifer Schweppe, Director, European Centre for the Study of Hate
G:35am– 10:15am	Introductory Panel <i>Speakers:</i> Judge Úna Ní Raifeartaigh, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights Käthlin Sander, Chairperson, Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) Dr Wolfram Bechtel, Head of the Standards and Intercultural Inclusion Division and Secretary of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) <i>Moderator:</i> .Professor Jennifer Schweppe, European Centre for the Study of Hate
10:15am– 11:15am	Plenary Panel 1: Combating the Continuum of Hate. <i>Speakers:</i> Professor Barbara Perry, UNESCO Chair in Hate Studies, Ontario Tech University Dr Stephanie Öner [online], Chairperson, former Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime

Time	Details
	Dr Ebun Joseph, Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism, Ireland Moderator: Charlotte Gilmartin, Head of the Gender Equality Policies Unit, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Council of Europe Closing comment: Professor Shane Kilcommins, President of the University of Limerick
11:15am–11:45am	Tea and coffee
11:45am–1.15pm	<u>Parallel Sessions – Green</u> [click to see details] 1. Critically interrogating Strasbourg’s stance on criminalising hate speech and its approach to intermediary liability compared to the Digital Services Act - Roundtable 2. European understandings of hate 3. Gendered experiences of hate (1) 4. Preventing Hate (1) 5. Representations of hate 6. Hate and human rights
1.15pm–2.15pm	Lunch

2.15pm– 3:45pm	Parallel Sessions – Blue [click to see details] 1. Identifying, Exposing and Transforming societal, institutional and policy responses to Hate Crime 2. Experiencing hate 3. The politics of hate 4. Preventing Hate (2) 5. Addressing hate online
Time	Details
3:45pm– 4:00pm	Tea and coffee
4:00pm– 5.15pm	Plenary Panel 2: Victims and Victims’ Rights <i>Speakers:</i> Professor Mark Walters, Honorary Professor, Sussex University Dr Klára Kalibová, Director, In Iusticia Dr Sindy Joyce, Lecturer in Traveller Studies, University of Limerick Marion Adam, Vice-Chair, former Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime Moderator: Ambassador Caitríona Doyle, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

6:30pm– 7.30pm	Launches – Castletroy Park Hotel De.Gruyter.European.Handbook.on.Hate.Crime - .to be launched by Professor Katie McBride, Co-Director of the International Network for Hate Studies Simply.Human¿.A.Guide.to.Understanding.and.Combating.Hate. - .to be launched by Professor Barbara Perry, UNESCO Chair in Hate Studies, Ontario Tech University Centre.for.the.Study.of.Hate.and.Inequalities - .SHINE. - .to be launched by Dr Puneet Saidha, Director of Research, University of Limerick Musical.entertainment¿. Traditional Irish Harp by Isla Vaughan Mitchell and Fiadh Nicholas
7.30pm	Conference dinner Castletroy Park Hotel

Day 2 – 2G May 2026

Time	Details
Gam	Registration, tea and coffee
G:30am– 10:45am	Plenary Panel 3: Increasing trust and promoting inclusion <i>Speakers:</i> Nadejda Hriptievschi, former Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech Rachael Moore, ILGA Europe Ciarán O'Connor, Institute for Strategic Dialogue Professor Kehinde Andrews, Birmingham City University <i>Moderator:</i> Dr Wolfram Bechtel, Head of the Standards and Intercultural Inclusion Division and Secretary of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)
10:45am– 11:15am	Tea and coffee
11:15am– 12:45pm	<u>Parallel Sessions - Purple</u> [click to see details] 1. We own our own words: Tackling Hate Speech and Online Academic Incivility Through Educative Approaches - Roundtable 2. The Cure for Hate — Film Screening and Discussion Panel 3. Hate crime in the criminal justice system (1) 4. Gendered experiences of hate (2) 5. Communicating hate 6. Understanding hate online
12:45pm– 1:45pm	Lunch

Time	Details
1:45pm– 2:30pm	Plenary Panel 4: Growing up in an Inclusive Europe <i>Speakers:</i> Mariam Tartousi [Online], Bureau member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) of the Council of Europe, Member of No.Hate.Speech.Network. Robert Örell, Executive Director of TRANSFORM and Board President of Violence Prevention USA Aoife Lawlor, Katie O’Sullivan, Nurjahan Islam, and David Canning, University of Limerick <i>Moderator:</i> Dr Viktor Kunderák, Vice Chair, Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)
2:30pm– 4pm	<u>Parallel Sessions - Red</u> [click to see details] 1. Criminalisation of hate speech 2. Hate crime in the criminal justice system (2) 3. Understanding and addressing hate speech 4. Preventing Hate (3) 5. The continuum of hate
4pm– 5pm	Plenary Panel 5 – Challenging Hate Conference closing remarks <i>Speakers:</i> Dr Matteo Tracchi, Hate Speech and Hate Crime Unit, Council of Europe Käthlin Sander, Chairperson, Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) Professor Jennifer Schweppe, University of Limerick <i>Moderator:</i> Charlotte Gilmartin, Head of the Gender Equality Policies Unit, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Council of Europe
7pm	Conference BBQ, University Pavilion Musical.entertainment. “Sessiún Ceol”

Challenging Hate: Protecting Human Rights and Strengthening Democracy

Conference hosted by the European Centre for the Study of Hate in association with the Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion

Parallel sessions

Day 1, 11:45am - 1.15pm Parallel Sessions 1: Green

1. Critically interrogating Strasbourg's stance on criminalising hate speech and its approach to intermediary liability compared to the Digital Services Act – Roundtable

Room: KBG10

Professor Gavin Phillipson, Dr Natalie Alkiviadou, Dr Eliza Bechtold

Moderator: Dr Luke Danagher, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

2. European understandings of hate

Room: KBG11

i. Hate speech in European Law: Between the Council of Europe and the EU

Stevi Kitsou

ii. The Legal Defence of Tolerance: How Article 2 TEU Can Confront State-Driven Intolerance in the EU

Dr Sara Benedi Lahuerta

iii. Systemic Deficiencies Hindering the Effective Challenge of Hate Speech and Hate Crimes in Bulgaria

Dr Deyana Marcheva, Associate Professor, New Bulgarian University

Moderator: Professor Anca Minescu, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

Gendered experiences of hate (1)

Room: KBG13

i. Instrumentalizing Anti-LGBT Sentiment: The Impact of “LGBT-Free Zones” in Poland

Dr Ewa Milczarek

ii. Online Gender-Based Violence Against Female Journalists in Ethiopia: Patterns, Responses, and Implications

Dr Muluken Asegidew Chekol

iii. Transphobic hate crime C manifestations of hate speech: the murder of Cuban trans woman by Bangladeshi man in Greece

Dr Dimitra Filippou

iv. Gendered Hate in Digital Ecosystems: Evidence from the Italian Manosphere

Giovanna Vingelli

Moderator: Charlotte Gilmartin, Head of the Gender Equality Policies Unit, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Council of Europe

4. Preventing Hate (1)

Room: KGB14

i. Building an Empathy Surplus in the European Union

Chuck Watts

ii. Hot and Cold: Can increasing cognitive flexibility decrease inter-group hatred?

Dr Arun Bokde, Dr Jan de Vries and Dr Simon McCarthy-Jones

iii. The Foundations of Modern Society: Reclaiming Universal Values through Education for Democratic Culture in the Real, Digital, and AI-Mediated World

Violeta Vlajkovic Bojic and Zlatko Grusanovic

Moderator: Natasha Walsh, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

5. Representations of hate

Room: KGB15

i. The Problem of Enduring Symbols of Hate

Robert Tynes

ii. Unmasking Code-Mixed Bengali Memes: A Hierarchical Multimodal Hate Detector Beyond the Surface

Suzad Mohammad, Md Saimul Haque Shanto, Md Samiur Rahman, Shamima Akter Eti, Naeem Mia, and Sadia Sharmin

iii. When Inaction Hurts: Social Norms and the Public Meaning of Hate Speech

Dr Jimena Zapata and Dr Ana Isabel Leal Lobato

iv. Othered at First Sight: Lookism, Ableism, and the Aesthetics of Exclusion

ellen stohl

Moderator: Dr Yianna Liatsos, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

6. Hate and human rights

Room: KGB1C

i. State-Driven Stigmatization as Hate Speech: Implications for European Human Rights

Law and Strategic Litigation

Professor Dr Hüseyin Demir

ii. "Are We Safe Here?" Migrant Women, Hate, and the Urgent Call for Action 25 Years After Durban

Dr Salome Mbugua

iii. From Hate to Harmony: Formulating a pan-European approach to hate crime across the European human rights framework?

Natalie Gunthel

Moderator: Dr Stefano Angeleri, European Centre for the Study of Hate University of Limerick

Day 1, 2.15pm - 3.45pm Parallel Sessions 2: Blue



1. Identifying, Exposing and Transforming societal, institutional and policy

responses to Hate Crime: British Society of Criminology Hate Crime Network Panel

Room: KGB11

Dr Jane Healy, Der Ferhat Tura, Dr Amy Clarke, Emily Wertans, Professor Jon Garland, Alannah Graham, Dr Maria Sapouna, August Ramsay

2. Experiencing hate

Room: KGB10

i. Victim-centred, Comprehensive Approach to Hate Crime and Hate Speech: Recent Experience with Reflecting International Standards and Best Practices in Czechia

Dr Viktor Kunderák

ii. Racist Hate Crime in Football

Dr Leon Moosavi

iii. Breathing Hate: Affective Atmospheres and the Embodied Experience of Prejudice

Professor Katie McBride and Professor Zoë James

Moderator: Eoin Quill, School of Law, University of Limerick

3. The politics of hate

Room: KGB13

i. The impacts of harassment and hate on Sami politicians in Norway

Professor Tore Bjørgo, Mikkel Berg-Nordlie, and Benedicte Nordahl Berntsen

ii. Hate Speech and Minority Rights in Serbia: The Case of Minister Vulin

Ragmi Mustafi

iii. Genocide and hate crime: Exploring hate offending through an alternative lens

William Bergstroem

iv. Exonationalism – Imperialism Reborn: International influences on populist nationalism,

The case of Ireland

Dr Lindsey Garratt

Moderator: Dr Nita Mishra, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

4. Preventing Hate (2)

Room: KGB14

i. Breaking the Loneliness-Hate Pipeline: Evidence-Based Youth Work Responses

Dr Eeva Sinisalo-Juha

ii. The Consultation Black Box: Tracing Public Input in Ireland's Hate Speech–Hate Crime Reform

Dr Luke Danagher and Professor Jennifer Schweppe

iii. Networking to fight underreporting in hate crimes. The Zero Hate Network

Marina González

iv. Performative Diversity or Genuine Inclusion? Rethinking Equity in Canadian Higher Education

Dr Wendy Fletcher

Moderator: Sinead Eaton, School of Law, University of Limerick

5. Addressing hate online

Room: KGB15

i. Democratising Online Hate Speech Governance: A Proposal for Independent Public Authorities and Civil Society Observatories

Professor Federico Oliveri

ii. Leveraging the Digital Services Act - Introduction to Appeals Centre Europe

Sophie-Charlotte Walter, Anna McCarthy Adams and Leo Twiggs

iii. Media and Online Hate: Implementing the Council of Europe Recommendations

Lavinia Pedol

iv. Algorithmic Political Hate Speech: A Conceptual Framework

Dr Gizem Yardimci

Moderator: Dr Emma Dolan, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

Day 2, 11.45am - 12.45pm Parallel Sessions 3: Purple



1. We Own Our Words: Tackling Hate Speech and Online Academic

Incivility Through Educative Approaches: Roundtable

Room: KBG10

Dr Wannette Van Eg Dom-Tuinstra and Bryony Gilbert

2. The Cure for Hate: Film Screening and Discussion Panel

Room: KGB12

Peter Hutchison and Tony McAleer

3. Hate crime in the criminal justice system (1)

Room: KGB15

i. Albanian practice of the use of CoE Recommendations on combating hate speech and hate crime

Dr Robert Gajda and Magistrate Gëzim Spahiu

ii. Bridging the Divide: Survivor, Police, and Community Perspectives on Collaborative Hate Crime Response in Canada

Kassandra Roul and Dr Michael Woodworth

iii. Understanding and Responding to the Impact of Hate Crime on Trust

Dr Anne-Mai Flyvholm and Rasmus Mortensen

iv. Psychological Profiles of Perpetrators in the Context of Hate Crime

Selen Soysal-Kazanç

Moderator: Natasha Walsh, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

4. Gendered experiences of hate (2)

Room: KBG13

i. 'It's the Women': Antifeminist Hate and Digital Violence as Democratic Threats.

Grit Marti Lange

ii. Necropolitical Relationality and Material Transition: A Case for Monstrosity.

Dr Yianna Liatsos

iii. Transphobia and the Production of Fatal Violence: A Cross-continental Analysis of Anti-Trans Homicide in the US and Europe

Mark Walters

iv. Computational Analysis of Immigration Narratives: Studying Gendered Experiences of Immigration and Integration in Ireland

Deepak John Reji

Moderator: Charlotte Gilmartin, Head of the Gender Equality Policies Unit, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Council of Europe

5. Communicating hate

Room: KGB14

i. The Politics of Hate: IDF Soldiers' Videos and the Linguistic Making of Genocidal Violence

Dr Siti Nurnadilla Mohamad Jamil

ii. Online Hate Speech as a threat to freedom of expression. The case of public space in Poland.

Dr Anna Leszczuk-Fiedziukiewicz

iii. Artificial Intelligence Equity, Equal Protection, and Ethics

Dr Marc Brenman

iv. Crafting the Undeserving Victim: Hate Speech and Narrative Warfare in State Repression

Dr Fikret Demirçivi

Moderator: Dr Nita Mishra, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

6. Understanding hate online

Room: KGB1C

i. Everyday Offence: The Overlooked Side of Online Communication

Dr Vahid Parvaresh and Dr Tahmineh Tayebi

ii. Beyond the Explicit: Characterizing Direct and Indirect Online Hate Speech Targeting Marginalized Groups in Portugal

Dr Rita Guerra and Dr Paula Carvalho

iii. Antisemitism and Islamophobia in online far-right subcultures: A cross-disciplinary approach to understanding online hate on TikTok and X

Nanna Ellen Amer

Moderator: Dr Pablo de Tezanos-Pinto, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

Day 2, 2.30pm - 4pm Parallel Sessions 4: Red



1. Criminalisation of hate speech

Room: KGB11

i. Fighting hate speech, protecting hateful speech

Professor Massimo Durante and Dott. Jacopo Ciani Sciolla

ii. When Hate Speech is Hate Crime: Identifying and Sanctioning Severe Forms of Hate Speech

Dr Audrey Fino

iii. Cross-border Impacts of Hate Speech and Hate Crime: How to Mitigate Harm Emanating from Another Jurisdiction

Abdulkerim Balci

Moderator: Agata Lynch, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

2. Hate crime in the criminal justice system (2)

Room: KGB15

i. From Law to Practice: Hate Crime Prosecution in Serbia

Jelena Jokanovic

ii. Typology and characteristics of perpetrators and victims of hate crimes - experience in the former Yugoslavia

Adrian Borka

iii. Transformations in thinking about hate: relationships, domestic spaces and conditions

Dr John Clayton

iv. Improving the Police Response to Hate Crime: Police Officer Perspectives and the Potential of Procedural Justice

Luke Hubbard

Moderator: Professor Mark Walters, Adjunct Professor, European Centre for the Study of Hate, University of Limerick

3. Understanding and addressing hate speech

Room: KGB13

i. Hating the poor, hating the Roma: hate speech against the 'socially assisted' in Romania

Dr Andreea Carstocea

ii. Hate Speech Legislation in Iceland: Legal Developments and Parliamentary Discourse

Dr Eyrun Eythorsdottir and Hildur Fjola Antonsdottir

iii. The Implications of Xenophobic Social Climate the UK's Policy-Making: How the Labour Party is now led by Nigel Farage

Saff Coskun

Moderator: Dr Stefano Angeleri, European Centre for the Study of Hate, UL

4. Preventing Hate (3)

Room: KGB14

i. Hate Crime and Restorative Justice in Spain: A Legal Approach

Professor Dr Beatriz Souto Galván

ii. The ethics of combating hate

Associate Professor Birgitte Johansen and Dr Thomas Brudholm

iii. Living Through and Beyond Racism

Debbie Allen

Moderator: Dr Niloufar Omid, European Centre for the Study of Hate, UL

5. The continuum of hate

Room: KGB1C

i. Preventing social media platforms from promoting extreme opinions and hate speech in Horn of Africa, promoting pluralistic digital space

Abdifatah Hassan

iii. Hate Speech and Misrepresentation as Catalysts for Ethnic Driven Violence: Cross Generic Reading of Post Rwandan Genocide Francophone African Testimonies

Dr Nicholas Osita Okolie

iii. Direct Provision from a Hate Speech Perspective

Dr Soraya Afzali

Moderator: Dr Xosé P. Boán, European Centre for the Study of Hate, UL