

## No Hate Speech Week 2025

Strasbourg, 18-20 June 2025

### Call for participants

The Council of Europe invites CSOs active at European and national levels, local and national authorities, as well as representatives of Equality bodies and Ombudsoffices, academia, internet industry and other stakeholders to apply and take part in the No Hate Speech Week 2025. All interested candidates should apply by completing [the application form](#) by **31 March 2025**.

#### **No Hate Speech Week 2025**

The No Hate Speech Week is an event organised by the Council of Europe with support of the European Union, to mark the International Day for Countering Hate Speech to mark the **International Day for Countering Hate Speech** on 18 June. The Week also aims to promote Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on Combating Hate Speech and support multi-stakeholder cooperation to implement its recommended legal and non-legal measures.

The No Hate Speech Week provides an opportunity to exchange on recent legal and policy developments and good practices of implementation, innovations and foster synergies between key partners. The presence of different stakeholders provides networking opportunities that can enable a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach to preventing and combating hate speech in the member States.

The Week gathers a wide range of stakeholders who engage in preventing and combating hate speech, including representatives of national authorities, public figures and political bodies, CSOs active at European and national levels, equality bodies and Ombudsoffices, academia, internet industry, the media, international organisations, and EU bodies<sup>1</sup>.

***Theme for 2025: “Enhance legal and non-legal measures against hate speech through a multi-stakeholder approach”.***

The CM Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) invites member States, in-line with the European Convention of Human Rights and related case-law, to define when hate speech should be prohibited under criminal, civil or administrative law. When developing and implementing policies, legislation, strategies and action plans to prevent and combat hate speech, member States should balance the need to protect the rights of those targeted by hate speech with the right to freedom of expression.

In practice, states address the most serious cases of hate speech through criminal law, and sometimes in parallel through civil law with regard to compensation. Less severe cases are dealt with through administrative or civil law only. Criminalising the most serious cases of hate speech also serves as a message that freedom of expression should be limited when it denigrates people and attacks their dignity and rights.

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<sup>1</sup> See also for example the recommendations for key actors in CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech.

During the No Hate Speech Week 2025, participants will have a chance to:

1. Exchange on the current European and national policy solutions to counter hate speech liable under criminal law.
2. Provide insights into existing knowledge, practices and challenges in countering hate speech through a multistakeholder approach including the role of criminal justice systems, Media, CSOs, faith-based organisations and victim support services.
3. Exchange on the role of dis-information in hate speech and solutions to counter it through legal and non-legal means.
4. Gather practical information, resources and networks on combating illegal hate speech in cooperation with the law enforcement and prosecutors.

### ***Methodological approach of the week - a collective success***

The programme of the week is designed to provide space for learning and networking between the different stakeholders – a multistakeholder approach in practice. The No Hate Speech Week aims to inform and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange of knowhow and practice and will therefore deploy a variety of methodological approaches, namely:



- Plenary sessions to open the No Hate Speech Week, present recent findings and developments on combating hate speech and take stock of the discussions and commitments made by the participants.

- Workshops and working groups – The Anti-Discrimination Department will co-organise a series of workshops and working groups on range of topics with CSO partners, other Council of Europe services and international partners. The workshops aim to be practical and facilitate exchange of experiences, resources, and tools on education and training, counter-narratives to hate speech, combating illegal hate speech and hate crime, working with the law enforcement, prosecutors and the justice system, hate speech and media, hate speech targeting LGBTI persons, Roma, minorities, migrants, hate speech spreading sexism, antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate speech.

- Networking spaces – The networking space will include a fair of promising practices and exhibit tools and resources, and informal discussion tables hosted by Council of Europe entities, CSO partners or other stakeholders.

- Official reception – There will be reception hosted by the Maltese presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

The No Hate Speech Week takes place in parallel to other meeting of Council of Europe and EU bodies, to which the programme of the Week will make links, including:

- A seminar on Combating Hate Crime organised by the European Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion ([CDADI](#)) and the European Committee on Crime Problems ([CDPC](#))
- Plenary session of the European Steering Committee on Media and Information Society ([CDMSI](#)),

- Thematic sessions organised by the [Intercultural Cities](#) programme,
- Project meetings of the Council of Europe Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics ([SOGIESC](#)) Unit,
- Award ceremony for ethical media reporting on Roma,
- Meeting to discuss launch of a new work stream on improving public information on hate crime and hate speech under the [EU High Level Group](#) on combating hate speech and hate crime, and
- the EU Parliament will have its plenary session during the week.

### ***Presenting a good practice***

The participants of the No Hate Speech Week are invited to present good practices from their work on countering hate speech. The presentations can have different formats such as:

- A Poster prepared for the fair of promising practices, or an exhibition of tools and resources which can be shared with other participants in the networking spaces.
- Contribution to a thematic workshop or co-running a workshop with other participants.
- Activities during the networking event such as contribution on the informal discussion tables around topics related to your work on countering hate speech.
- Other contribution from your practice which you would like to share with other participants.

Please provide in your application form more details about a practice or resource you would like to share during the week. In case you do not have a specific good practice to share, you can add some information about the themes of your work that you would like to discuss with others during the networking space.

### ***Profile of participants – learning together***

The Council of Europe invites participants from its member states active on combating hate speech, in particular those who represent CSOs active at European and national levels, local and national authorities, as well as representatives of Equality bodies and Ombudsoffices, academia, internet industry etc. to apply and take part in the No Hate Speech Week. The week will additionally gather media, elected officials, governmental representatives, law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, social and community workers and other partners.

Some 75 participants will be invited following this public call for expression of interest. Selection will be made based on experience and potential to engage in peer-to-peer exchange on evolving practices, projects and policies, ensuring a geographical and gender balance, and diversity of experiences and contributions. The applicants for the No Hate Speech Week 2025 should ideally fulfil the following selection criteria:



1. Based and actively working in any of the Council of Europe's member states.
2. Demonstrate experience in countering hate speech within their nominating CSO, local and national authorities, equality bodies/ombudsoffices, academic institution, tech company or other private or public entity engaged in this topic.

3. Ability to work in English.
4. Ability to act as a multiplier in addressing hate speech within different contexts; and with different stakeholders is an asset.
5. Willingness to present their work on countering hate speech through a workshop or a poster for the networking event (fair of promising practices) is an asset.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, age, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

### **Financial and practical conditions for participation**

#### *Travel expenses*

Travel expenses for participants will be covered according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The payment of per-diems will be made by bank transfer after the activity. The programme starts at 9 am on 18 June and finishes at 3pm on the 20 June.

#### *Accommodation*

Board and lodging for the No Hate Speech Week will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe will ensure if needed, accessible accommodation to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

#### *Working languages*

English will be the working language of the No Hate Speech Week. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

### **How to apply to this call**

All candidates must apply by filling in the application form available [here](#).

The Council of Europe will select some 50 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established.

The application form must be submitted on-line until **31 March 2025, 23.59 CET**.

For further information, please contact Stefan Manevski at [anti-discrimination@coe.int](mailto:anti-discrimination@coe.int)