



COMBATING HATE CRIME

Hate crime threatens the safety of individuals and groups that are targeted by it and violates their core human rights. At the same time, it undermines equality and human dignity and destroys social stability and peace, thereby threatening the very basis of democratic societies. Hate crime is a complex phenomenon to tackle. It lacks an internationally recognised binding definition and it is under-reported by victims.

The Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 on Combating Hate Crime sets out what should be done to prevent and combat hate crime. It calls upon member state institutions and key stakeholders to effectively co-operate and co-ordinate with one another as well as with civil society organisations for the purposes of preventing and responding to hate crime effectively and within the framework of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

**Council of Europe
policy framework**

Combating Hate Crime

Anti-discrimination

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO COMBATING HATE CRIME



The new recommendation on combating hate crime

■ Understands hate crime as a category of criminal offences involving hate, bias or prejudice that relate to the (actual or perceived) personal characteristics or status of the victim.

■ Provides guidance to governments and relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing comprehensive policies, strategies and action plans for preventing and combating hate crime.

■ Stresses the importance of adopting a holistic, multi-faceted and intersectional approach to provide individuals who experience hate crime with adequate protection, support and effective access to justice.

■ Recognises that hate crime can be a consequence of the escalation of hate speech.

What should be done

■ Adopt effective, proportionate, and dissuasive provisions in criminal law, alongside comprehensive policies, guidelines and other measures to prevent and combat hate crime.

■ Create the conditions to encourage reporting of hate crime through:

- ▶ Providing effective, trauma-informed support to hate crime victims throughout the entire criminal justice process – including language services and legal, medical and psychological assistance;
- ▶ Setting up safe and effective platforms, including anonymous and online reporting, as well as emergency helplines;
- ▶ Encouraging criminal justice agencies to co-operate and co-ordinate between themselves and with civil society organisations.

■ Understand and properly address hate crime and its underreporting by:

- ▶ Collecting anonymised and disaggregated data;
- ▶ Regularly conducting surveys, including victimisation surveys;
- ▶ Analysing and regularly reviewing such data to improve strategies.

■ Prepare and implement effective strategies and identify and address the drivers of hate crime.

■ Engage with relevant stakeholders such as internet intermediaries, public officials, elected bodies, political parties, civil society organisations, and the media.

■ Develop a culture of inclusiveness and human rights through education systems that promote mutual respect and equality.

More on the recommendation
and the Council of Europe's work
on combating hate crime:

