

# THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION AND THE NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT 2012-2018





**NO HATE  
SPEECH  
MOVEMENT**

## Foreword

**Y**oung People Combating Hate Speech Online is a campaign initiated by the youth representatives in the Joint Council on Youth. It has been run by the Council of Europe's youth sector since 2012.

It aims to combat racism and discrimination, as expressed online as hate speech, by mobilising young people and youth organisations to recognise and act against such human rights violations.

The fight against hate speech has been one of the strategic priorities for the programme of the Council of Europe's youth sector since 2012.

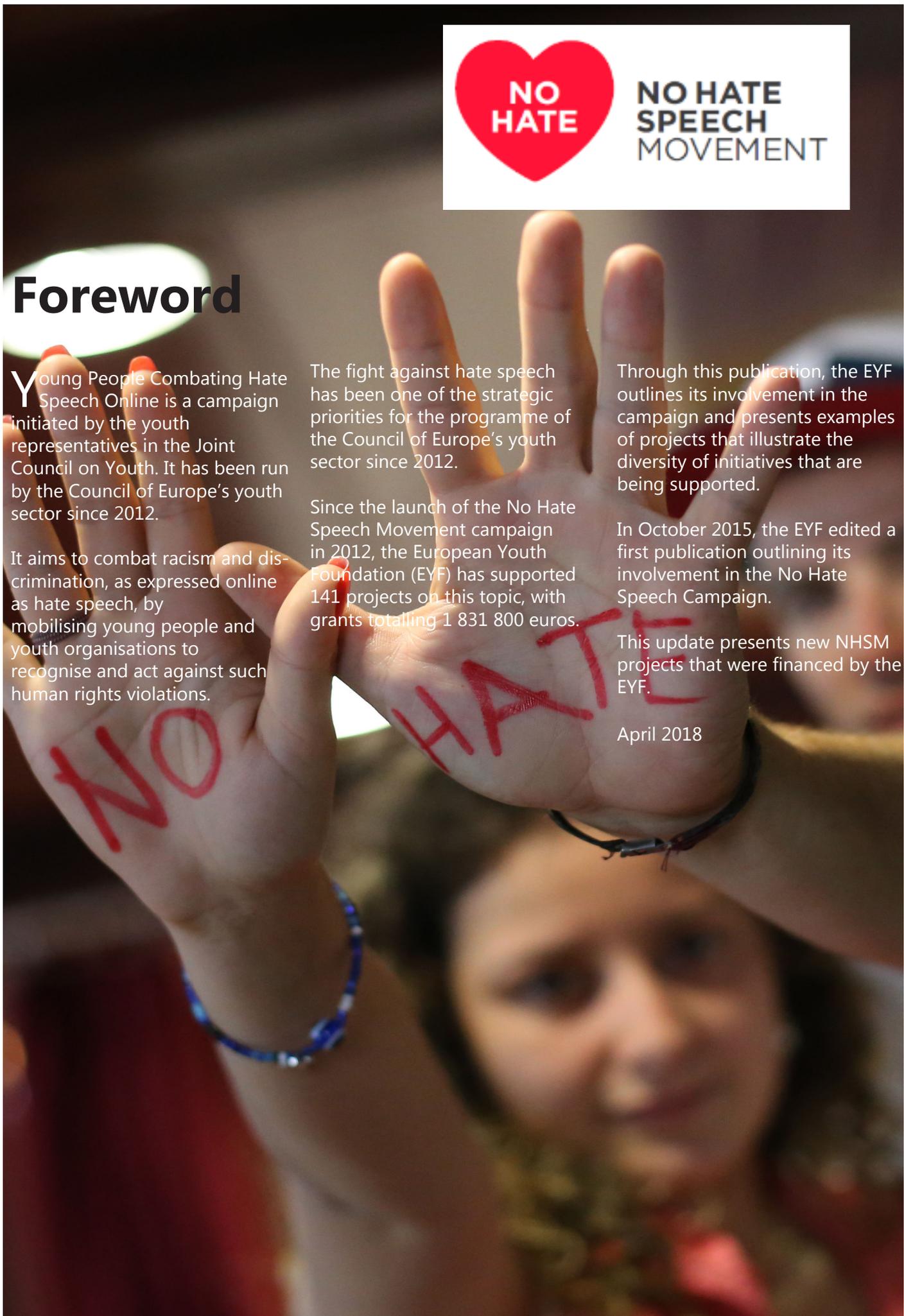
Since the launch of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign in 2012, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) has supported 141 projects on this topic, with grants totalling 1 831 800 euros.

Through this publication, the EYF outlines its involvement in the campaign and presents examples of projects that illustrate the diversity of initiatives that are being supported.

In October 2015, the EYF edited a first publication outlining its involvement in the No Hate Speech Campaign.

This update presents new NHSM projects that were financed by the EYF.

April 2018





CLUB FOR YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT



Amaro Drom e.V.

AMARO DROM E.V.



WORLD STUDENT  
CHRISTIAN  
FEDERATION



UNITED

racism  
fascism  
nationalism

UNITED



South Europe Youth Forum

SOUTH EUROPA YOUTH FORUM



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

elsa

The European Law Students Association

EUROPEAN LAW STUDENTS  
ASSOCIATION



FOUNDATION OF SUBJECTIVE  
VALUES



YOUTHNET  
HELLAS



DRONI



FORUM 16



AEQUITAS



## With the EYF, the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) takes the lead against hate speech to launch its national campaign

In 2014, the National Youth Council Ireland (NYCI) organised an EYF-supported pilot activity aimed at launching the No Hate Speech Movement in Ireland with young activists.

This training course enabled them to acquire skills to counter online hate speech and to prepare launching events for the national No Hate Speech Movement campaign in Ireland.

**“We learnt a lot about running the campaign during that phase. We are now bringing our campaign experiences to Northern Ireland”.**

The project responded to the trend of increasing incidents of hate speech by encouraging young people to adopt an active stance against

human rights abuses with creativity. Within the framework of this training course, the website that hosts the official National Campaign Committee of Ireland for the No Hate Speech Movement was developed and launched.

Another output from this project was a video that illustrates the impact on victims of hate speech and invites people to say “No” to this phenomenon and to join the No Hate Speech Movement. Overall, with this project NYCI achieved extensive awareness raising about the campaign and introduced a discourse on hate speech in Ireland that was previously absent.

After the end of the European Campaign, the NYCI had the idea to organise a “Youth Ambassadors Training Course” called #SolidActivists”, which received the EYF-support to a pilot activity.

Interviewed by the EYF, some participants explained how important the No Hate Speech Movement was for Ireland. It is one of the “few countries in Europe that does not have a hate speech legislation”, says Emmanuel Samuel, who “experiences hate speech in his daily life”.

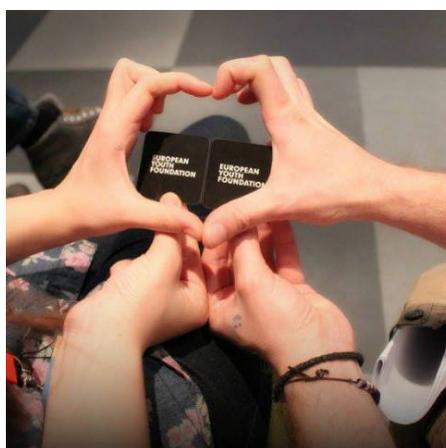


## Birth of the Hate Fighters Network

Supported by the EYF in 2013, this first Hate fighters project was launched by the Club for Youth Empowerment 018 (KOM 018) in Serbia in cooperation with the Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - SPPMD, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Their programme has been implemented through various youth meetings and capacity building activities in 2013 and 2014. The "hate fighter" is a young person who has participated in the education and action stage of a project. Participants first take part in a workshop (educational component) and then, they take an active part in a local action against hate speech. To thank them for their contribution to the campaign, they become officially known as "hate fighters". The capacity building or thematic workshops cover the themes of what hate speech is, how to combat it,

the legal aspects and online activism. Methods such as hip hop dance, music, photography and drawing have been used to produce more tools to combat hate speech. The outcome has been a multitude of comics, illustrations, photo comics, as well as a Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The official song of the "Hate Fighters", "Stop Hate Speech", was created by a KOM 018 volunteer, rapper and songwriter. The choreography was developed by a dance trainer.



Thousands of young people have been reached through the various social media platforms. The "Hate Fighters" Booklet presents some of the products of the 2013 and 2014 activities - from photo groups, to comics and hip hop dance.



In 2016, the Hate Fighters Network received an EYF grant to develop an annual work plan. This grant enabled them to carry out their actions against hate speech in 8 countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Belgium, Albania and Greece). The network even created an official dance that its members can use for flash mobs in local communities.





## “Wipe Out Hate”: An answer to growing populism

This initiative launched in 2013 by the youth NGO “United for Intercultural Action - European Network against Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees (UNITED)” is an EYF-supported pilot activity.

During 2013, the “Wipe Out Hate: Stop Hate Speech Online” campaign aimed to raise awareness and respond to the trend in growing populism in Europe by mobilising young activists against hate speech and intolerance online.

The International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism on 9 November was used as the coordination date for the campaign which took place in different European countries.

Materials prepared included: posters, leaflets and postcards. A media release was sent out ahead of the official launch on 9 November. Information was provided during the campaign via a new website and a Facebook page. Activists and NGOs were encouraged to join the activities. Events were featured on an interactive map, while the “Wipe Out Hate! UNITED in Solidarity” conference was an opportunity for the antiracism movement to gather and develop concrete ideas against hate speech.



Organised in October 2013, the “Wipe Out Hate! UNITED in Solidarity” conference brought together activists from 33 European countries in response to a growing populism and to prepare the run-up to the EU 2014 elections.

The aim: to provide a platform for the antiracism movement to share information, good practices, develop partnerships and cooperation, and mobilise in tangible terms against online and offline hate. An action was organised by participants in the centre of Prague in support of the Roma community of Ostrava, who were threatened by a Nazi-march on the same day.



## SEYF active against hate speech online

In 2012 with EYF support, the Italian youth NGO South Europe Youth Forum (SEYF) developed a training course "Social Rightwork: Hate Speech online - capacity building workshop South Europe Youth Forum".

Basing their work on a virtual communication platform, SEYF came across the challenges of online communication amongst youngsters.



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(ENGLISH VERSION)



The output: an e-handbook for trainers, youth workers, and human rights' activists that presented a mapping of hate speech online, general prevention policies and measures, as well as the importance of education and the role of human rights NGOs on the issue. It also proposed active ways to combat online hate speech and produced a tool that online activists were invited to use: thematic e-stickers linked to SEYF's website and to information on the No Hate Speech Movement, to use to report cases of hate speech online.



with the financial support of the European Youth Foundation.



# social rightwork

net  
click your rights

SEYF brought thirty young activists together with experts in the defence of human rights. Together they explored the status quo on hate speech online with an analysis of official reports and studies on the issue at the European and local level. The NGO provided new information, tools and skills dealing with online discrimination. Cases of hate speech on social networks, newspapers and websites were mapped, analysed and used for the conception of tools and project ideas that would actively counteract such incidents.





## Fight against Hate Speech in Bitola

Thanks to the EYF-supported pilot activity in 2017, the youth Association for Civil Activism Forum 16 has trained over a 6-months period a "New Generation of Youth Leaders to Address Hate Speech" in public schools. According to the youth NGO, high school students in the local community of Bitola, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, are exposed to significant levels of offensive speech including ethnic and gender-related insults, discrimination, and overt hate speech.



## War against Hate Speech in Cyprus

Youthnet Hellas, in co-operation with the Youth Social Rights Network and Alternative Innovative Development, organised an EYF-supported pilot activity in the region of Thessaly, Greece, in 2017. During the project "CHaRiSMA, Combating Hate Speech Multipliers and Ambassadors", they brought together teachers, educators, youth activists and youth workers to share experiences on using tools, methods and manuals for combating hate speech and bullying through human rights education. A team of activists will continue supporting and promoting the NHSM campaign's ideas and products at local level even after its official ending in 2017.



## I'm the change! Training Course on No Hate Speech

The training course "I'm the change" organised by the youth NGOs Arm Active and Loesje Armenia focused on raising awareness on Human Rights Education and the No Hate Speech Movement in Europe and in the local context. Participants learned about Human Rights and the various protection mechanisms available, and discussed NHSM case studies and examples.

Tools and techniques to combat hate speech were provided. The working methods included theoretical inputs, games, experiential learning, discussions and art workshops.

The photo and video workshops developed participants' artistic skills, leading to the production of two videos. The videos are aimed at drawing the general public's attention to hate speech online.



In 2016, the EYF gave its support to the Cypriot youth NGO Aequitas, which launched a No Hate Speech platform with a hotline on a Greek and English platform. The platform contains relevant information on hate speech in order to help young people, their relatives or friends understand better the dynamics of hate speech and also provides tools to combat hate speech and/or to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for a human rights culture where solidarity and equality is embraced. The platform provides an online chat system which offers information for victims of hate speech as well as support and information for others such as parents, guardians and friends of victims.

## The EYF helped to “Turn Hate off” in Georgia

In 2017, the Georgian NGO I Droni organised a training for trainers with the EYF supported pilot activity “Turn Hate Off” from 14th and 20th of May 2017. 28 youth workers and trainers from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia, were given new skills and knowledge to use in their Non-formal education activities. A special focus has been given to combating Hate Speech, from a content perspective but also through capacity building on tools and methods to disseminate the topic among their communities and youth NGOs.



## Final Conference of Online Hate Speech as a Cybercrime programme in Norway

ELSA, Norwegian European Law Students Association organised the “Conference on Online Hate Speech” in December 2013 in Oslo as the final step of its operational plan for 2012-2013 on informal legal education.

The conference presented the results of the Legal Research Project on Online Hate Speech as a cybercrime and addressed the trend of online hate speech from a criminal law perspective with law students and young lawyers from 20 countries members of the Council of Europe.

The Legal Research Project was the setting up of a research group, introduced by ELSA together with the Council of Europe, intended for exploring

the legal environments regarding online hate speech in different countries.

During the conference, the results of the research were discussed and several workshops explored specific case laws of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as practical patterns and motives of online hate speech. A final report was produced, collecting the legal status quo on online hate speech at national level, from 17 countries, members of the Council of Europe.

“... a network of 41,000 law students became aware of the importance of combating hate speech. This success would not be achieved without the valuable coordination of the Council of Europe and the support of the European Youth Foundation for the organisation of a forum where young people exchanged their ideas on this contemporary issue.”

With this publication, distributed to 330 faculties, ELSA aimed at providing young legal professionals with a tool to increase their awareness on legal and moral considerations related to online hate speech, to contribute to legal education and to foster a Europe wide approach to the challenges of online hate speech.



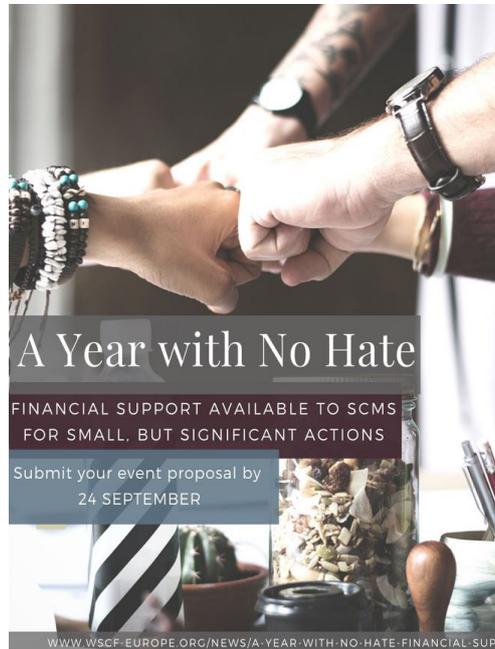
## 2017: A year with No Hate

In 2017, the youth NGO World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)-Europe launched the ambitious project "A year with No Hate", which received the support of the EYF within the framework of an annual work plan.

After a meeting in April 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania, a conference took place in Ireland in October 2017, where young people from all over Europe took part in a series of workshops, lectures and small group discussions to create mutual respect and enhance the understanding of topics such as building diverse communities.

From October to December 2017, a photo competition on Diversity and Integration was organised for creative young people across Europe to share their best photographs reflecting the topics of diversity and integration (see below).

At the end of the year, creative and talented European young people participated in a photo competition. David Enriquez from Germany won the first prize with its picture "Breaking the Bubble". The second prize was awarded to the Serbian Mirjam Balovski for the picture "Heart of hands" and the third one to Diana Yeghiazaryan from Armenia for her picture "Inside we are all the same humans".



**First Prize: "Breaking the Bubble" by David Enriquez from Germany**

**Second Prize: "Heart of hands" by Mirjam Balovski from Serbia**

**Third Prize: "Inside we are all the same humans" by Diana Yeghiazaryan from Armenia**



## Young online activists combat hate speech manifestations of Anti-gypsyism

Having noticed that dominant media discourses construct the identity of Roma people around stereotypes, in addition to increased number of hate messages appearing in the virtual space, the German youth NGO Amaro Drom organised a training course in Berlin on 2 – 5 October 2014, to equip young Roma activists with the skills to recognise, expose and deconstruct online and offline manifestations of anti-Gypsyism.

The young activists analysed cases of hate speech against Roma on the news media and the social media platforms, including those concealed in seemingly neutral forms of expression. They became familiar with existing tools of online and offline activism and they learned how to react within the social media platforms and how to produce their own, visual materials for the purpose of anti-Gypsyism campaigning.



Two video spots were produced as an output of the project: a humorous video that puts a Roma family into “the shoes” of a German family with stereotypic perceptions, aiming to turn prejudices upside down.

And a spot where Roma youngsters present themselves with pride and invite people to challenge their prejudices. Both were widely disseminated through the social media platforms of the organisation and through diverse networks.



**Online Hate Speech publication developed by IGLYO, an International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO)**

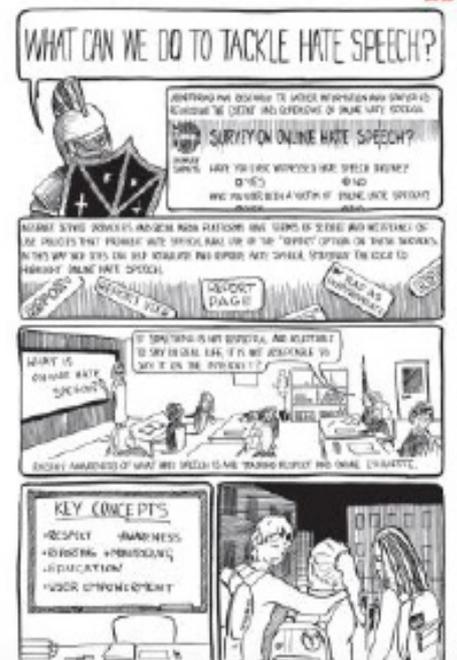
Published in 2013, "IGLYO On Online Hate Speech" explored the concept of hate speech in relation to freedom of speech. It outlined the situation in a wider European context and the development of the national campaigns of the No Hate Speech Movement and presented testimonies related to online hate speech from Norway and Italy. Illustrated narrative was used to present some of the key aspects of online hate speech.

The aim of this publication was to serve as a tool which Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) organisations and other youth NGOs could use in their work. It represented the experiences of LGBTQ youth regarding online hate speech, by presenting best practices and achievements in combating this phenomenon.

It explored the main concepts linked to hate speech and encouraged the sharing of information as a way of young people to fight against all forms of discrimination.

1000 hard copies were printed and distributed via the mailing list of the organisation and were made available at all IGLYO events and external activities. The electronic version was promoted through IGLYO's website, social media, and members' network as well as through partner organisations. The

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organisation estimates that "IGLYO on Online Hate Speech" has directly reached to over 5000 young people.



## Hundreds of pictures taken during the No Hate Speech Road Show organised by the Hungarian NGO Foundation of Subjective Values (FSV)

An awareness raising project, the "No Hate Speech Road Show" aimed to make the No Hate Speech Movement campaign (NHSM) more visible in Hungary, highlighting local issues and encouraging more people to act when seeing hate speech online. The target audience, high school and university students, was primarily reached through the placements of stands in 9 different locations. This included universities, high schools, music and wine festivals.

One outcome of the project, the "No Hate Road Show 2014 Hungary" publication, presents some of the hundreds of photos taken during the project and a short description for each one of the location events. The Foundation of Subjective Values (FSV) estimates to have directly reached out to 1800 young people. As a result of the Road Show, FSV gained more followers on social media channels and recruited new activists for their movement.

"After the huge wave of refugees entering Hungary we feel it's really crucial to maintain the NHSM movement for increasing the combat against hate speech, discrimination and racism through online campaigns and discussion."

