



# No Hate Speech Movement

A campaign of young people for human rights online

by Rui Gomes

This article gives an overview of the campaign and ideas about how to get involved, as the campaign will run at least until the end of 2014. The name of the campaign has been adopted as the No Hate Speech Movement.



The campaign took its present format through several consultation events, preparatory meetings with experts, youth workers and young people. The main aim is to create an online community of young people motivated to discuss and act against hate speech online. The campaign is not run to limit freedom of expression online. Neither is it against hatred online nor about being nice to each other online. The campaign is against the expressions of hate speech online in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as cyber-bullying and cyber-hate. It is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. It aims at reducing hate speech and combating racism and discrimination in their online expression; raising awareness about these phenomena is the first objective of the campaign.

## The objectives of the campaign

- ✎ to raise awareness about hate speech online and its risks for democracy and for individual young people, and to promote media and Internet literacy;
- ✎ to support young people in standing up for human rights, online and offline;
- ✎ to decrease the levels of acceptance of online hate speech;
- ✎ to mobilise, train and network online youth activists for human rights;
- ✎ to map hate speech online and develop tools for constructive responses;
- ✎ to show solidarity and support to people and groups targeted by hate speech online;
- ✎ to advocate for the development of and consensus on European policy instruments combating hate speech;
- ✎ to develop forms of youth participation and citizenship online.

## National campaigns

### National campaign committees and support groups

The campaign is decentralised through national campaigns in the member states. Governments were invited to set up national campaign committees. The Council of Europe considers the committee as ideal if it involves the government, youth organisations and other civil society actors, as well as the relevant segments of the business sector. At the time of writing there are 36 member states of the Council of Europe that have started national campaigns. Campaign support groups may be formed in cases where a national campaign committee is not (yet) feasible. Interest for the campaign is spreading beyond Europe: NGOs and institutions from Mexico have recently expressed interest in implementing the campaign.

### National online platforms

National committees can operate their own national online campaign platform and online tools in the languages that are relevant in the country. National campaigns may translate the tools into local languages so as to take into account the linguistic and cultural context of each country; this is already happening in a number of countries.

## Online campaign tools

### No Hate Speech Movement website

[www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org)

**No Hate Speech Movement:** Online platform for user-generated content uploaded by young people with their emotional and rational contributions about hate speech, identity and ideas. This site is the main landing page of the campaign available for the widest public with testimonials through self-made videos, photos or other visual manifestations. Young moderators are working to ensure safety and respect.



## Hate Speech Watch

This is an online platform to monitor, collect and discuss hate speech content on the Internet. It is a user-generated online engine where registered users can link in any hate speech content from the Internet. Users can tag them, comment them and discuss them. Moderators are monitoring and facilitating the site, creating focus topics every month based on the main interest of the online community. Special “take action” features will also be available if the identified and discussed hate speech content requires further action. It’s the perfect place for online activists!

*The No Hate Speech Movement platform and the Hate Speech Watch are developed and maintained by the Council of Europe in English and French.*

## Campaign co-ordination website

This is the portal for campaign organisers and activists with updated information about the work behind the campaign. Organisations that are interested in taking part in the campaign can join by filling out a form on this website.

**The campaign co-ordination website:**

[www.coe.int/youthcampaign](http://www.coe.int/youthcampaign)

## Online educational tools

This is a campaign about education. Tools for education and action are thus very important. The following will be made available shortly.

**Online campaign toolkit:** The Council of Europe has developed an online toolkit for young people and their organisations about ways of involvement in the campaign. The online toolkit provides knowledge and information about the campaign and its media, and gives concrete practical and methodological support for online campaigning.

**Learning module on hate speech:** This online learning tool helps people to understand different aspects of hate speech. The module provides “basic and essential” knowledge about hate speech and hate speech online.



**School campaign pack:** This online tool supports campaign promotion and action in the school environment. The Council of Europe has developed this pack for secondary schools to help teachers when discussing online hate speech with students, to organise a European competition among secondary school students on hate speech online and cyber-bullying, to introduce the online campaign tools in schools and to involve secondary school students in the online campaign.

All three tools will be available in English on the campaign websites, and the Council of Europe provides them free of charge to national campaign organisers to be translated and implemented in the national campaign context.

## European Action Days

Throughout the campaign several Action Days will focus on different aspects and targets of hate speech. Each Action Day will have a special programme and online activities co-ordinated by international youth organisations.

**17 May:** Action Day against Homophobia and Transphobia online

**20 June:** Action Day in support of refugees and asylum seekers

**22 July:** Action Day against hate crimes

**12 August:** Youth Day

**21 September:** Action Day for religious diversity and tolerance

**14-20 October:** Local Democracy Week: local actions against hate

**9 November:** Action Day against Fascism and Anti-semitism

**10 December:** Action Day for human rights online.



## Want to get involved?

*There are many ways to take an active part in the campaign.*

**Individuals** can join the campaign by uploading their self-expression statement about their identity or about hate speech and they can also register as a user at Hate Speech Watch and take part in the debates and monitoring of hate speech content on the Internet.

**Organisations and institutions** that are interested in taking part in the campaign can join on the co-ordination website by registering as a campaign partner and advertise their activities on the campaign co-ordination site. Local and national youth organisations can take part in the national campaign in their own country by organising or contributing to online and offline activities of the national campaign. For this they can contact the national campaign co-ordinator. The list of national campaign co-ordinators is available on the campaign co-ordination website. An organisation can also join one of the European Action Days that has the theme closest to the objectives of the organisation, by organising a local or national activity on that day.

**European and international youth organisations** can take the lead in proposing and implementing a European Action Day that has a focus or target group within the interest of the organisation. If such an organisation has an idea they can contact the campaign secretariat with their proposal for a European Action Day within the campaign.

**Schools** can join by downloading the campaign pack for schools and implement activities for their students, and they may also register as campaign partners on the co-ordination website.

For further details or questions you can contact the campaign secretariat by email at

[youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int)

