

Recommendation on combating hate speech

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a comprehensive legal and policy framework to prevent
and combat hate speech and how to implement it...

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The Council of Europe

- Human Rights, Democracy, Rule of Law
- Created in 1949 currently has 46 member states



The instruments

□ **Standard-setting**

European Convention on Human Rights and some 200 other conventions and treaties

Recommendations

- **Monitoring** for example ECRI Country Monitoring Reports
- **Cooperation** with member States and other stakeholders

‘A sense of security in the space we all inhabit is a public good. Hate speech undermines this public good.’

Jeremy Waldron



Towards a Recommendation

Key stakeholders were involved in the drafting process:

- member states,
- intergovernmental organisations such as the EU, UN and OSCE, and
- civil society organisations

Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

Adopted in Turin, 20 May 2022

www.coe.int/ADI-MSI-DIS



Principles and guidelines on a comprehensive approach and multi-stakeholder approach:

1. Scope, definition and approach
2. Legal framework: criminal, civil and administrative law as well as legislation regarding online hate speech
3. Recommendations addressed to key stakeholders: public officials, elected bodies, political parties, internet intermediaries, media, civil society organisations
4. Awareness-raising, education, training, use of counter- and alternative speech
5. Support for those targeted by hate speech
6. Monitoring and analysis of hate speech
7. National co-ordination and international co-operation

Definition and scope

Hate speech is understood as all types of expression that incite, promote, spread or justify violence, hatred or discrimination against a person or group of persons, or that denigrates them, by reason of their real or attributed personal characteristics or status such as “race”, colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.



Differentiate between:

- hate speech that is prohibited under criminal law
- subject to civil or administrative law
- offensive or harmful types of expression which call for alternative responses

Implementing the Recommendation

CDADI & CDMSI **monitor its implementation** by member states, with:

- **Review of promising practices** at national level of the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation
- Review of **state of implementation of the recommendation** by member states.

Promotional activities and capacity building efforts through **Cooperation** projects

Cooperation programmes beyond and around the Recommendation

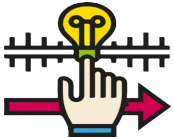
- Systemic Mapping of national approach to combating hate speech is conducted in various countries across Europe
- Online courses on hate Speech and hate crime
- Manuals for law enforcement on policing hate.
- Guides and tools to design and implement effective awareness raising and educational initiatives.



We CAN 4 Human Rights Speech



1. Hate speech calculator: helps assess the severity of the hate speech incident, its potential to spread online, its damage to individuals and groups, and determine best response

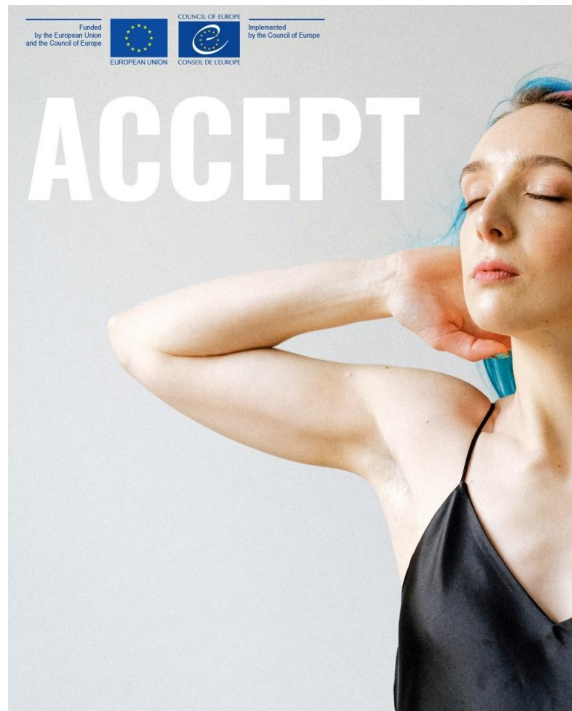


2. Human Rights narrative builder: allows to define human rights arguments on a particular topic/issue, helps clarify what messages to use to push back against hate or to campaign for human rights online



3. Communication strategies toolbox: provides step by step guidelines, checklists and tips for effectively using digital platform tools to disseminate human rights speech

www.coe.int/human-rights-speech



Thank you!



Recommendation: www.coe.int/ADI-MSI-DIS

Cooperation projects: www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination