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Closing Conference of the Project “We Can for Human Rights Speech” “SPEAKING HUMAN RIGHTS ON-LINE”

26-27 April 2022, Brussels and on-line

Background

The project “[We can for Human Rights Speech](#)” supports civil society to more effectively combating hate speech by developing user-friendly tools, building capacities, and consolidating cooperation at the European level.

The project is implemented by a Consortium led by the Council of Europe including four European NGOs: ActiveWatch, Agenzia di Promozione Integrata per i Cittadini in Europa (APICE), Neue Deutsche Medienmacher*innene e.V. (NdM) and A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (CEJI). It is funded by the EU through its Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme. Its implementation started in February 2020 and will be completed in April 2022.

The project has produced three user friendly tools, developed via evidence-based research and previous material of the No Hate Speech Movement, including:

- [Hate speech calculator](#): which helps assess the severity of the hate speech incident, its potential to spread online, its damage to individuals and groups, and determine best response
- [Human Rights Narrative builder](#): which allows to define your human rights arguments on a particular topic/issue. It helps clarify what messages to use to push back against hate or to simply campaign for human rights online.
- [Communication strategies toolbox](#): which provides step by step guidelines, checklists and specific tips for effectively using digital platform tools.

The project also provided capacity building trainings, workshops on the use of the above online tools and networking opportunities to activists.

For the project’s closing conference, the implementing consortium invited other organisations and actors active in the field of combating hate speech to co-organise some of the sessions. The conference furthermore invites practitioners, educators, policy makers, researchers and others working to promote human rights online and thus to enhance the potential for networking, building synergies and future cooperation.

The event’s title, “Speaking Human Rights On-line”, points to an approach aiming at proactively promoting equality and non-discrimination through human rights-based narratives and making the on-line space a safer place for everyone.



The event will cover latest developments in the field of combating hate speech via research, policy, awareness-raising and education, with a strong focus on the role and potential of human rights-based narratives in advancing equality, human rights and democratic values.

Special attention will be given to how responses to hate speech evolved and adapted in the context of the Covid pandemic, as well as to issues related to adoption of new European standards and guidelines, enhancing inter-sectorial and multidisciplinary cooperation, use of human rights narratives to counter hate speech, victim support, role of media literacy, research and monitoring of hate speech to ensure a comprehensive response to hate speech, and promote human rights speech online. of hate speech.

Objectives of the event:

The joint conference provides an occasion for:

- Networking between practitioners, activists, researchers, experts and policy makers active against on-line hate speech issues.
- Showcasing and sharing results, good practices, lesson-learned and tools developed by various projects on mapping, researching, and educating about promoting on-line speech for Human Rights.
- Identifying outstanding needs and areas for potential synergies and future co-operation.

Format

To maximise outreach and to flexibly adapt to evolving covid-related restrictions, the event is conducted in a hybrid format with all plenary session available online. The afternoon workshops and open space discussions are organised in-person, while also specific workshops are held online for the online participants.

Participants

60 participants will be invited to attend in-person (pending sanitary guidelines in place) including practitioners, activists, researchers, experts and policy makers engaged in addressing on-line hate speech and/or promoting human rights online. Selection of participants will take into consideration a balance of regional and gender representation and diversity of experiences with the topic.

On-line attendance of plenary sessions and participation in on-line workshops is open for everyone on registration.

Language

Working language of the event is English.

Contact

anti-discrimination@coe.int

DRAFT PROGRAMME
Closing Conference of the Project “We Can for Human Rights Speech”
“SPEAKING HUMAN RIGHTS ON-LINE”
26 – 27 April 2022, Brussels and on-line

Format:

Hybrid	In-person	On-line
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Tuesday, 26 April 2022
Morning Programme

09.00-09.30	Participants’ registration
09.30-10.15	<p>Opening (hybrid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hallvard Gorseth, Head of Anti-discrimination Department, Council of Europe ● Ingrid Bellander Todino, Head of Unit Fundamental Rights Policy, DGJust, European Commission (tbc) <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Getting to know the participants and programme</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Presentation of results of the project ‘We CAN 4 Human Rights Speech’</p>
Plenary Session (hybrid) - Stock Tacking – PART ONE	
10.15-11.30	<p>Latest developments in the field of combating hate speech and speaking human rights on-line in the areas of research, policy, campaigning and education: progress achieved, new practices and tools developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● European Commission, DG JUST ● Council of Europe ● We Can for Human Rights Project Consortium ● European No Hate Speech Network
11.30-12.00	Break
Plenary Session (hybrid) - Stock Tacking – PART TWO	
12.00-13.00	<p>Examples from interdisciplinary co-operation and synergies in combating on-line hate speech - success stories and lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carlos Moran Ferres - Spanish Ministry of Interior, CoE Partner in the Systemic Mapping of hate Speech in Spain ● Council of Europe’s Intercultural Cities Network - _Anti-rumours campaign ● Representative of National Equality Body - (tbc) ● Federico Faloppa - Rete nazionale per il contrasto ai fenomeni d’odio

13.00-14.30 **Break**

Tuesday, 26 April 2022

Afternoon Programme (two separate programmes for in-person and remote attendance)

At the venue: attendance in-person only:

14.30-15.45 **Parallel Workshops**
Three workshops for about 20 participants each will be conducted in parallel.

Workshop 1: “The rise of, and possible responses to, anti-gender narratives on-line”

Speakers/ experts:

- Council of Europe SOGI Unit

Workshop 2: “The use of Counter and Alternative Narratives against hate and for human rights speech on-line”

Speakers/ experts:

- INACH
- Active Watch

Workshop 3: “Building and maintaining Alliance against hate and for human rights online”

Speakers/ experts:

- CEJI
- Council of Europe

15.45-16.15 **Break**

16.45-18.00 **Open Space**
Parallel “open space” sessions will be made available for participants (due to sanitary restrictions to group size might apply). These sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to run a short workshop or brainstorm and exchange ideas on selected topics.

‘Open Space session’ rely on self-facilitation and reporting by participants. Facilitation guidelines and reporting formats will be developed and made available for all groups.

On-line: attendance only remotely, upon registration:

14.30-16.45 **Parallel Virtual Workshops**

Virtual Workshop A: “Crash course on the on-line toolkit for human rights speech on-line”

This 2-hour session will guide the participants through the 5 steps of the Human Rights Narrative builder tool and practice using it with based on an example of hate speech. Participants are invited to actively contribute to the discussion and might walk away with concrete ideas for counter or alternative narratives.

- Zara Lavchyan, Independent consultant

Virtual Workshop B: - “CoE’s ‘Democracy Here, Democracy Now’ Youth Campaign”

- Ruxandra Pandeia, Youth Department of the Council of Europe (tbc)

18.00-20.00 Social gathering

Sanitary guidelines permitting, an informal social closing if organised with a small toast on the conclusion of the ‘We CAN 4 Human Rights Speech’ project.

**Wednesday, 27 April 2022
Morning Programme**

9.00 – 9.15 Opening of the day - At the venue: attendance in-person only

Explanation of programme of the day

9.15–10.30 Reflecting on failures and challenges: what to learn?

In this safe space, with gentle guidance by a moderator, participants are invited to share stories of what went wrong when they were combating hate speech and reflect on what can be learned from those events.

10.30 -11.00 Break

Plenary Session (hybrid) - Work ahead – PART THREE

11.00 –11.30 Opening and recap from previous sessions

**11.30- 12.45 Plenary Session:
Part three: Outstanding and emerging challenges and how these could be addressed together by activists, researchers, platforms and policy makers**

Moderators:

- tbd

Speakers:

- Social media platform representative
- Researcher Ministry representative and member of the Expert Committee on Combating Hate Speech.
- Stop the Hate – Spread the Love Regional campaign in Western Balkans.

- 12.45-13.00 **Conclusions of the Plenary Sessions** (and information about remaining programme)
- Irena Guidikova, Head of Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Programmes Division, Council of Europe
 - Tommaso Chiamparino, policy officer, EU DGJust.

13.00– 14.30 **Break**

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

Afternoon Programme (two separate programmes for in-person and remote attendance)

At the venue: attendance in-person only:

14.30– 15.45 **Parallel workshops (in person)**

Workshop 4: “Critical media literacy training, against hate speech for human rights”

- TMI Academy, the Netherlands (tbc)
- Neringa Jurčiukonytė - Media 4 Change Lithuania

Workshop 5: “working with and for the need of Victims of hate speech”

- Council of Europe
- CEJI

Workshop 6: “Tips and tricks using Social Media tools”

- Julia Mozer, Twitter (tbc)
- Sina Lauberstein, consultant (tbc)

15.45-16.15 **Break**

16.15-17.30 **Open Space**

Parallel “open space” sessions will be made available for participants (due to sanitary restrictions to group size might apply). These sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to run short workshops and brainstorm and exchange ideas on the selected topic.

On-line: attendance only remotely, upon registration:

14.30 - 15.45 **Virtual Workshop C: “Introductory short course on Hate Speech on-line”**
This 2-hour session will explore with participants what is hate speech, what makes it a human rights concern, and how can it be addressed. The short cause, building

on the Facing Facts / We CAN 4 HRS courses, provides short exercises and ample time for discussion and reflection between participants.

- We CAN 4 HRS project consortium

Virtual Workshop D: “using the On-line Observatory on hate Speech”
European Online Observatory on Hate Speech / TextGain