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Strasbourg, 17 January 2018



Youth Campaign for human rights online

## **EVALUATION AND CLOSING CONFERENCE**

10-12 April 2018, European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

**Call for Participants**

## Introduction

The [No Hate Speech Movement](#) campaign (NHSM) was initiated in 2012 and prolonged in May 2015 until the end of 2017 by the Committee of Ministers, as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism, with four main objectives:

- To support human rights education activities for action against hate speech and the risks it poses to democracy and the well-being of young people;
- To develop and disseminate tools and mechanisms for reporting hate speech, especially online, including at national level;
- To mobilise national and European partners to prevent and counter hate speech and intolerance online and offline;
- To promote media literacy and digital citizenship and support youth participation in Internet governance.

The No Hate Speech Movement has been implemented through national campaign committees; bringing together the main national stakeholders; online activists; European campaign partners; and many (youth) activists involved in the programme of the Youth Department. Since its prolongation the campaign has grown to 45 national campaigns, over 90 online activists and 60 partner organisations.

The European coordination of the campaign by the Council of Europe has formally come to an end in December 2017. However, action on hate speech continues through the Council of Europe action plans and programmes of the Youth Department and the newly established Anti-Discrimination Department.

The vast majority of the national campaigns and partner organisations are continuing in 2018 despite the end of the centrally-co-ordinated support. This demonstrates that the campaign continues to successfully mobilise a variety of actors, and that youth organisations and partners remain committed to taking action for human rights on and off-line. The Council of Europe will continue to provide institutional and practical support to national campaigns.

The Council of Europe takes the opportunity to evaluate the achievements and processes of the campaign, through an external evaluation, compilation and dissemination of good practices and resources on combating hate speech.

The results of these processes will be brought together and discussed at the European campaign closing conference with input and participation of all the main actors and stakeholders of the campaign since its inception. The conference conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation will be the bases for a report with guidelines for the future work on combating hate speech, strengthening human rights online and enabling youth participation in Internet Governance processes for the Council of Europe, member states and civil society partners. The report will be presented to the Joint Council on Youth in the fall of 2018 with a view to present the guidelines for future action for adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

The Evaluation and Closing Conference of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign is the main campaign event for the Council of Europe in 2018. The conference will be also a moment to celebrate together achievements and should provide national and European

partners and activists the opportunity to establish a joint vision going for follow-up of the results and processes in the council of Europe, in member states and with all the parties.

### **Aim and objectives**

The Evaluation and Closing Conference celebrates, review and consolidate the achievements, successful practices and policy interventions of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign.

The conference objectives are to:

- give recognition and visibility to the achievements of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign
- reflect on the findings of the external evaluation of the youth campaign for 2016-2017 and to review and validate its recommendations
- review emerging developments in hate speech and human rights online and define future measures to be taken in light of what has been learned through the campaign
- draft guidelines for member states and the Council of Europe on how to strengthen the role of young people in combatting hate speech through practice and policy
- identify and propose future actions by national campaigns, partners and activists who are continuing the No Hate Speech Movement in their country

### **Participants**

The conference will bring together over 100 actors in the campaign over the past years including:

- Representatives of national campaign committees and support groups;
- European campaign partners
- Online activists
- Beneficiaries of grants of the European Youth Foundation for campaign-related activities
- Local and national authorities
- Young people in national campaigns
- (youth) Organisation cooperating on a Youth department programme activity (eg. Study session or training course)
- Educational professionals
- Members of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance

All participants should:

- Have been involved in the No Hate Speech Movement campaign at European or national level between 2015 and 2017
- Be able to represent their organisation, institute, youth group or network and transfer the findings of the conference back to their constituency
- Have working knowledge of English or French

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

## **Procedures for application and nomination of participants**

A call for expression of interest is opened for:

- Online activists
- Beneficiaries of grants of the European Youth Foundation
- European campaign partners
- Young people in national campaigns;
- (youth) Organisation cooperating on a Youth department programme activity (eg. Study session or training course)
- Education professionals

All applicants representing one of these stakeholder groups must apply through the online application form at: <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>. The preparatory group for the conference will make its selection of participants based on the above criteria and with concern to maintain a regional and gender balance.

National campaign committees are invited to nominate a representative and substitute. The national campaign committee should communicate their nominees to the European campaign secretariat by email: [youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int). National campaign committee representatives are requested to also complete the online form at: <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

Representatives of Local and Regional authorities will be invited by the European Campaign Secretariat. Representatives of Local and Regional authorities should contact the European campaign secretariat by email for more information at [youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int)

Representative of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance will be invited by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in close consultation with the secretariat of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance. For more information please contact the secretariat at: [Giorgio.LODDO@coe.int](mailto:Giorgio.LODDO@coe.int).

A quota for the number of participants representing each stakeholders group has been established.

## **Programme and methodology**

The programme will consist of four elements: verification of the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation; celebration of achievements; identification of future challenges and opportunities; drafting proposals for the work on hate speech by national campaign, partners and the Council of Europe.

Plenary panel discussions will be combined with working group sessions, the outcomes of which are fed back in plenary and the conference report. All panel discussion seek to involve campaign partners or activists and young people active in national campaigns.

The conference will open on 10 April at 14.00 and close on 12 April 18.30, followed by a dinner party.

**The outline of the conference programme is available in the annex.**

### **Application procedure and deadlines**

The Youth Department is opening the call for participants for the Evaluation and Closing Conference of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign. All interested candidates from the stakeholder groups listed above must apply online, completing the application form through this link: <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

The application must be submitted **by 12 February 2018, at noon, Central European Time.**

All applicants will be notified of the selection results by 1 March.

### **Practical and financial conditions**

#### **Venue and accommodation**

The conference is held at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France. All participants will be accommodated at the European Youth Centre or a nearby hotel. Meals are provided. Tickets for local transport between the Hotel and European Youth Centre is provided.

#### **Travel expenses**

All travel expenses to and from the Conference will be managed and reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe.

#### **Working languages**

The working languages will be English and French.

#### **Visas**

Visa costs will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe will issue an invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the conference.

### **Further information**

For further information please email: [youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int)

## **Annex Draft outline of Evaluation and Closing conference**

### **Day 1, Tuesday 10 April**

#### *Morning*

Registration desk for the participants

14.00 - 18.30

Official opening and getting to know each other

Presentation of the findings of the external evaluation of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign 2016-2017.

Working groups on conclusions external evaluation

#### *Evening*

Barbecue dinner and social programme

### **Day 2, Wednesday 11 April**

9.15 - 12.45

The state of hate speech issues today:

- Thought provoking input by two expert speakers
- Working group session reflecting on achievements, present challenges and steps forward taken by the campaign partners

12.45 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 18.30

- Sharing of practices and approaches to combating hate speech challenges now and in the future by campaign stakeholders and the council of Europe
- Reflection on 'Great ideas never realised and bad ones that were'
- Exploring opportunities for new cooperations

#### *Evening*

Social programme in Strasbourg (tbc)

### **Day 3, Thursday 12 April**

9.15 - 12.45

The future of the movement

- Working groups with different stakeholders on shaping to future work on combating hate speech, strengthening human rights online and youth participation in Internet governance.
- Review of conclusions of the Conference and guidelines for the future of the movement.

12.45 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 18.30

Review of guidelines for the future work on combating hate speech, strengthening human rights online and youth participation in Internet governance by the Council of Europe and member states and campaign stakeholders.

Adoption of Conference conclusions

No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign celebration event

Official closing of the Conference

*Evening*

Fancy Dinner party