



London, 31st May 2016



In cooperation with

National Training Course on Human Rights Education

Respect, Review, Release HRE. Report, React, Respond to hate speech
1st – 7th August 2016, London

Information
Call for participants



Background information about the training course

Europe is built on the diversity of distinct cultural, religious and social traditions embodied in the cultures of its countries. It is home to people of many different racial, ethnic, religious and national backgrounds, and its economy and cultures have been enriched by the contributions of migrants from around the globe. In an increasingly globalised world, migratory movements will continue to shape European society. However, migration in Europe is often criminalised and has severe implications for human rights.

As stated in the Council of Europe Secretary General's first report, unfortunately people with a different ethnic, religious or linguistic background often perform less well than the majority. Frequently they enjoy economic, social and political rights to a lesser degree, leading to segregation and the emergence of parallel societies, and sometimes contributing to radicalisation and extremism."¹ In addition, while the impact of new information technologies on all aspects of modern societies and human life has been very positive, new vulnerabilities of our societies have emerged through the growth of the Internet and social media.

This historical time is strongly characterized by the attention on terrorism and extremism. Episodes of discrimination and violence are currently very common, particularly amongst young people. This kind of verbal and physical violence is triggered not only by racist ideas but also for example by religious and cultural bias.

Along with the rise in extreme terrorism, a rise in prejudiced attitudes has also ensued. Take Britain for example, it has become increasingly and evidently apparent that, many members of society are perceiving all Muslims as extremists or every person aged 14-19 as members of violent and uneducated gangs. Stereotypical generalisations are dangerous but are easily transmitted online and can distort the facts; for example, it is estimated that in Britain alone, there are over 2.7 million Muslims and yet it is believed that only up to 600 have left the country to join ISIS. Although this number is still shocking and unnerving, it is clearly a minority in comparison with the overall population. Intolerance and discrimination against Muslims are not new phenomena. However, they have evolved and gained momentum in recent years, particularly under the climate of the "war on terror" campaign, the global economic crisis, pressures of the heated debate on the notion of national identity, and difficulties in comprehension of the increased diversity in many societies. Such developments have contributed to a growth in resentment and fear of Muslims and Islam that have often been fuelled by sections of the media and through the discourse by some political actors.

Muslims are often portrayed as extremists who threaten the security, freedoms and well-being of others. The ideologies based on ideas of "us versus them" have reinforced the prejudiced image of Muslims as "enemies," in the absence of shared histories or common cultural heritage, or accurate knowledge of different cultures and religions. Because of such stereotypes, many Muslims experience various forms of discrimination including -but not limited to- verbal and physical acts of aggression, religious profiling, lack of equal opportunities in employment, housing, health care and education, and restrictions on public expression of

¹ (from State of Democracy, Human Rights and the rule of law in Europe. A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe. Report by Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

<https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2742889&SecMode=1&DocId=2263108&Usage=2>).



religion. Moreover, Muslims often face multiple levels of discrimination, based not only on religion, but also from an ethnic, economic, citizenship and gender perspective.²

Islamophobia is not the only phobia, indeed it has been accentuated by media, but Christian-phobia and Anti-Semitism are also actively existent. Comparatively, Britain is one of the best countries in the world in which to be Jewish, but we must fight to keep it that way. There is a rising tide of Anti-Semitism in Britain.³

Promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity, along with countering all forms of intolerance and discrimination, must today, more than ever, be absolute priorities for the international community, in order to maintain peace and stability at both the global and regional scope. The attitudes and tensions that lead to inter-communal conflict are often deeply rooted in stereotypes and misconceptions, and one of the most pressing contemporary challenges is to promote awareness and wider knowledge about, and understanding of, different cultures. Educators play a fundamental role in meeting this challenge.

The Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement

The Council of Europe's No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) campaign was set up to mobilise young people in awareness-raising and acting on the issues related to hate speech and human rights online. From 2013 to 2015, member states set up National Campaign Committees (NCC) and took part in the European campaign to gain a better understanding of the issues young people are concerned with and ways forward to counter this challenge to human rights and democracy. In May 2015, in the framework of the Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism, the Committee of Ministers decided to continue the No Hate Speech Movement campaign until 2017. This campaign remains driven by the need to counter online hate speech in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as cyberbullying and cyber hate, racism and other forms of discrimination. The campaign is based upon human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. The thematic focus of the campaign in 2016-2017 will be Antisemitism, Sexist hate speech, Refugees, Root causes of violent extremism, Counter-narratives, and Reporting and Education.

For these reasons AICEM together with YouthLink Scotland, EuroMernet, UPF-UK, the Asha Foundation and other organizations want to promote a training course to give a boost to already existing movements promoting the values of human rights in the UK.

² From Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. Addressing Islamophobia through Education.
Link: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/84495?download=true>

³ <https://antisemitism.uk/>



Aims and Objectives of the course

This training course aims to:

- Promote human rights (HR) among young people and their role as citizens, to contrast discrimination based on background in the process. Explore ways young people can use both offline and online tools to exercise and defend democratic rights use them to engage and influence political decision related to Human Rights (HR) and Human Rights Education (HRE).
- Empower youth workers of our local partner in the UK with tools and methodologies on HRE in order to start a common campaign in the UK and to support participants to implement concrete actions through their organizations, implementing new projects and positively influence local authorities on the importance of HRE.

Objectives are:

- To understand key concepts of human rights and the role of human rights education with young people in a diverse society;
- To develop in participants essential competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) so as to enable them to implement human rights education work in formal and non-formal learning settings;
- To get acquainted on the priorities and the relevant mechanisms and instruments (charters, declarations, conventions) of the major international human rights institutions and develop competences in advocacy work at local and national level with a particular focus on the Charter on EDC/HRE;
- To raise participants' awareness of their potential to act as multipliers in human rights education in their youth organisations and local communities;
- To understand the role of human rights education in the process of overcoming intolerance and extremism, particularly promoting non-discriminatory approach among young people and between different generations;
- To further participants' reflection about the concepts of accessibility and barriers, in relation to HR and as to how to deal with barriers faced by young people coming from different cultural and religious backgrounds, in the frame of access to HR;
- To raise awareness about the online and offline forms of Christian-phobia, Islamophobia, Antisemitism;
- To discuss about Internet governance processes, ways of interaction online, namely on speaking about HR with online tools, dealing with HR and non-discrimination through online tools;
- To promote the diffusion of the new Compass 2012, Charter for all (user-friendly Charter on EDC/HRE) and the Bookmarks - the manual to combat hate speech online through human rights education;
- To give concrete tools to be used by our partners at local and national level for tackling hate speech, promoting HR and intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and developing a better understanding of the causes, extent, forms, different targets and consequences of hate speech online and offline, especially on young people;
- To identify measures to prevent, counter, report and remedy hate speech, notably through the No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) campaign, the EDC/HRE Charter of the Council of Europe, and other relevant instruments;



- To prepare the main approaches and actions for mobilising the NHSM campaigners to act together against hate speech;
- to strengthen the national networks of organisations that are involved in the context of HR and HRE with young people with a view to encourage them to cooperate with the national coordinators of Education for Democratic Citizenship or other relevant bodies that are in charge of supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe EDC/HRE Charter;
- To promote the implementation of Council of Europe's standards and identify gaps to fully address hate speech in the UK.

The expected outcomes of the training course are:

- Improved knowledge on HR and HRE;
- Development of actual advocacy and campaigning activities;
- Improved competences about HRE and the use of Compass as the major tool to promote HR and educate on HR;
- Understanding of the importance of e-learning, within the framework of non-formal education;
- Improved knowledge about the Council of Europe and its activities in the HR field;
- Development of the capacity of networking with other people and organisations working in a multicultural atmosphere;
- Realization of long-term joint actions to promote HR and HRE online and offline through the No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) and the Council of Europe EDC/HRE Charter.

After the residential meeting, the participants will be supported by the trainers for another month in order to underlay their project proposals falling in the long term joint actions. During this time, they will receive information about opportunities, support in uploading news on the blog and on the ways of adapting and reflecting the project into their local context.

The Programme in brief

The programme of the seminar will include the following main sessions:

1st DAY:

- ✓ Arrival of participants, getting to know each other and team building, introduction to the institutional context of the course.

2th DAY:

- ✓ The HR and HRE framework: assessing competences.
- ✓ Understanding radicalisation and extremism, hate speech.

3rd DAY:

- ✓ Discrimination and faith-based discrimination.
- ✓ Understanding radicalisation and extremism, consequent discrimination and hate speech based on participants' experiences.
- ✓ Exploring possible responses including the No Hate Speech Movement campaign, the Charter EDC/HRE of the Council of Europe and other relevant CoE standards.



4th DAY:

- ✓ Presentation and discussion around examples of good practices of case law, legislation etc. that aim to combat hate speech.
- ✓ Advocacy and activism: Analysis and brainstorming on gaps and possible measures to address them, in order to combat hate speech effectively.
- ✓ Discussion on the online activity for the action day on 22 July 2016.
- ✓ Preparation for public debate at the Houses of Parliament.

5th DAY:

- ✓ Public debate.
- ✓ Tools for youth workers, youth trainers and youth leaders: Advocacy for HRE online and offline, campaigning for HR.
- ✓ Council of Europe - Youth Department contribution: sharing CoE best practices.
- ✓ Building a national strategy to fight faith-based discrimination.

6th DAY:

- ✓ Starting to build up the joint actions and the advocacy strategy. Presentation of project ideas and implementation with participants' suggestions.
- ✓ Supportive sessions on strategic partnership, human resources management (conflict management, communications, etc.)

7th DAY:

- ✓ Reinforcing the network.
- ✓ Follow up steps, evaluation and closing.
- ✓ Departures.

Profiles of participants

The training will bring together 25 participants from the United Kingdom among the governmental and non-governmental partners of the NGOs involved in the project and experts identified by the partners of the project. However, the call is public and every person fulfilling the criteria of the call can apply.

Participants need to have the following profiles:

- ✓ Be between 18 – 35 years old;
- ✓ Representatives of youth organisations, youth workers, students, teachers, young journalists with experience in human rights education or interfaith dialogue or motivated and committed to start working on combating hate speech;
- ✓ Representatives from NGOs working against hate speech, from human rights NGOs, human rights defenders, etc.
- ✓

There will be in addition:

- ✓ Policy makers working on developing policies and legislation to combat hate speech and promote human rights education and interfaith dialogue.
- ✓ Experts, researchers and academics specialised on the topic,
- ✓ Representatives of other national or Council of Europe bodies who do relevant work in combating hate speech.



All participants should:

- ✓ Be committed to working against hate speech and interested in supporting the No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) campaign.
- ✓ Be motivated and committed to contribute to the training course and its outcomes.
- ✓ Have some prior knowledge and experience on the themes of the training course.
- ✓ Be able to work in English.

The preparatory team of the seminar will select participants based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Compliance with the profile of participants mentioned above;
- ✓ Geographical balance;
- ✓ Diversity and complementarities of profiles;
- ✓ Level of understanding and experience in the field of human rights education/interfaith dialogue/intercultural learning.

We welcome participants from diverse backgrounds and aim to create an open and inclusive environment for participants.

Call for participants, application procedure and deadlines

We are now opening the call for participants for this seminar. All interested candidates must complete the application form attached to this call.

The application must be submitted **by 26 June 2016, before midnight** at the following e-mail address: ilaria.esposito@aicem.it

Practical and financial conditions

Timetable

The seminar will include two weeks of online preparation and action on the topic of the seminar starting from **18th July**. The total amount of online hours requested from the participants will be around 10 hours to be distributed throughout this period and at the participant's convenience.

The seminar will start at **2pm on 1 August** and end at **4pm on 7 August**. The afternoon of 5th August will include a public debate on the topic of the training course at the Houses of Parliament where activists and national representatives of the No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) campaign will be speaking and widening the discussion on several matters.

Venue and accommodation

The training course will take place at **Lancaster Hall Hotel, 35 Craven Terrace London, W2 3EL**. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organisers at the hotel or at other venues as described in the programme.

Accessibility

The venue is wheelchair accessible. Please let us know in advance if you have any accessibility or cultural needs we should be aware of.



Travel and subsistence expenses

Travel expenses to and from London within the UK will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Once selected for the course you will be asked to confirm your presence and book your tickets in advance.

Fee

Selected participants will pay a **total fee of 50 GBP** to participate in the course.

Working languages

The working languages will be English

Further information

For further information about the seminar, please contact Ilaria Esposito, the Course Coordinator: ilaria.esposito@aicem.it

We look forward to receive your application!

