



# **Webinar**

## **Countering Hate Speech**



## **Course Overview:**

Welcome to the webinar on Countering Hate Speech, organised by the Symbiosis - Council of Europe School of Political Studies in Greece. This three-week programme aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of hate speech and equip them with effective strategies to combat it. By enrolling in the Symbiosis E-Learning platform, you will have the opportunity to engage with renowned speakers and experts, gaining unique insights and experiences in this crucial topic.

## **Importance of Countering Hate Speech:**

Hate speech poses a significant threat to the fundamental principles of equality, human rights, and social cohesion. In today's interconnected world, where communication channels transcend geographical boundaries, hate speech has the potential to propagate rapidly, fueling discrimination, hostility, and violence. It fosters a climate of fear and intolerance, leading to the marginalization and exclusion of individuals and communities.

Understanding the dynamics and implications of hate speech is of utmost importance. Through this webinar, we aim to shed light on the underlying causes, consequences, and manifestations of hate speech. By examining its impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole, we can collectively work towards developing effective countermeasures.

## **Webinar Format and Requirements:**

This three-week webinar will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous sessions. Speakers and experts will deliver live presentations, fostering interactive discussions and addressing participants' queries. To participate in this webinar, participants need to be enrolled in the educational platform where the sessions will be held.

Throughout the programme, participants will have access to relevant educational resources and training materials to supplement their learning. Each week, participants will be encouraged to complete and submit assignments to reinforce their understanding on the topics covered.

Speakers bring a wealth of experience and perspectives from various backgrounds, including academia, human rights organisations, civil society, and intergovernmental institutions. They will share their insights, research findings, and practical strategies, offering you a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of hate speech and acquire effective strategies to combat it. More specifically:



## Week 1: Countering Hate Speech

**Date: Monday, June 26, 16:30 CET**

### Introduction:

The first session of the webinar will delve into the critical topic of countering hate speech and explore the role of misinformation and fake news. In today's interconnected digital landscape, misinformation and fake news have emerged as significant challenges in the fight against hate speech. This session will explore the intricate relationship between misinformation, fake news, and the perpetuation of discriminatory narratives. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how misinformation spreads, particularly through social media platforms, and the detrimental impact it has on shaping public opinion and fostering intolerance. Through this session, participants will be equipped to navigate the complex information ecosystem and contribute to building more inclusive and informed digital spaces.

### Speakers

- **Ljubisa Vrencev**, Co-founder of Symbiosis - Council of Europe School of Political Studies in Greece, will address key aspects of countering hate speech and the role of misinformation.
- **Dezideriu Gergely**, Directorate Anti-discrimination, Council of Europe, will discuss Council of Europe standards on hate speech, emphasizing principles derived from the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.
- **Julia Mozer**, Hate Speech Advisor & Communication Officer at CEJI, Belgium:, will provide valuable insights through an asynchronous presentation on Quality journalism & countering hate speech.

### Resources

### Assignment:

## Week 2: Breaking Barriers, Empowering Voices: Combating Gender-Based Hate Speech

**Date: Monday, July 3, 16:30 CET**

### Introduction:

This session of the webinar will delve into the crucial and complex subject of sexist hate speech. Hate speech targeted at individuals based on their gender is a pressing issue that not only undermines the principles of equality and human rights but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes. Gender-based hate speech poses significant challenges to achieving gender equality and social progress. It not only harms the individuals directly targeted but also creates an environment where sexism, misogyny, and gender-based violence are normalized. It restricts the freedom of expression and hampers the participation and empowerment of women, transgender individuals, and other gender minorities in public and private spheres. Understanding the dynamics of gender-based hate speech is essential to



address this pervasive problem effectively. By exploring the root causes, forms, and consequences of gender-based hate speech, we can develop strategies and tools to counter and challenge these harmful narratives. By actively engaging in this session, participants will gain insights into the impact of gender-based hate speech on individuals and communities. They will also acquire valuable knowledge and resources to advocate for change, promote gender equality, and create safe and inclusive spaces that celebrate diversity.

### Speakers

- **Cécile Gréboval**, Gender Equality Division of the Council of Europe, will discuss sexism and sexist hate speech.
- **Apostolos Karabairis**, Thessaloniki Pride, will address the topic "Unveiling the Rainbow: Tackling Hate Speech against the LGBTQI+ Community"
- **Daniel Martinović**, representing Rainbow Families Croatia, will share insights through an asynchronous presentation on "Hate speech from an LGBTQI+ perspective - working with youth, members of the LGBTQI+ community, and their families"

### Resources

### Assignment:

## Week 3: Work on hate speech with educational communities

**Date: Monday, July 10, 16:30 CET**

### Introduction

This session will delve into the vital theme of working on hate speech with educational communities (formal and non formal education teachers, parents, students, and managers). As educational institutions hold a key position in shaping the minds of future generations, it becomes imperative to address hate speech within these settings and foster environments that promote inclusivity, empathy, and respect. This week's sessions will offer a comprehensive exploration of the challenges faced by educational communities in combating hate speech and provide practical strategies to effectively address and counter such harmful discourse. By examining the role of educators, students, and administrators in creating safe and inclusive spaces, participants will gain valuable insights into the transformative power of education as a catalyst for positive social change.



## Speakers

- **Maryna Manchenko**, CESIE Italy, will provide valuable insights on hate speech online identification, reporting and related challenges.
- **Nicoletta Landi**, Cospe Italy, will provide an asynchronous presentation on "Hate speech from a gender perspective"
- **Cathy del Rizzo**, European Peer Training Organisation, will address the topic "Work with educational communities - recognizing hate incidents, using tools for tackling hate, and supporting targets of hate incidents" through an asynchronous presentation.

## Resources

### Assignment:

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Symbiosis was founded in May 2011 drawing upon collaborations in the Balkans and Greece in education, rights and anti-discrimination. Based on the premise that practicing human rights protection equals to democratic rule of law, Symbiosis focuses on information and education, freedom of expression, documentation and analysis, public debate and active civic participation, so that people and communities voice their needs and ideas. Grounded on the need for global civics, citizenship, social inclusion and political participation, Symbiosis works towards democratic participation in political processes free of discrimination and exclusion, and on developing civic awareness on institutional practices regarding rights. Symbiosis advocates for the political, social and economic participation of migrants, refugees and marginalised communities.

In 2020, Symbiosis has been awarded the European Citizens' Prize by the European Parliament for the activities of the School of Political Studies in Greece. The organisation participates in networks such as the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the Greek Housing Network, the Anna Lindh Foundation Network, Select Respect Network, the Athens Coordination Center for Refugee & Migrant issues and the Thessaloniki Municipality Migrants' Integration Council (2012-19).

The School for Political Studies in Greece was established by Symbiosis and the Council of Europe in 2014 and affiliated to the Network of Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies. This initiative of the Council of Europe aims to develop and strengthen democratic processes, strengthen civil society and promote democratic initiatives. The 21 Schools that make it up, focus on the challenges that arise for democracy and its institutions. The educational programme of the School in Greece consists of an annual cycle of seminars, participation in the Council of Europe World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg, as well as training, and it aims at education, co-operation and dialogue among civil society, policy makers, experts and the media. It focuses on human rights, anti-discrimination, social inclusion, democratic citizenship, freedom of expression, democratic governance, equality, and gender-based violence, migration and the protection of the environment.