



With the financial support from the Fundamental Rights and
Citizenship Programme of the European Union

Conference

THE RISE OF ONLINE HATE SPEECH AS A NEW ALARMING GLOBAL SOCIAL PHENOMENON: REASONS AND REMEDIES

October 15th, 2019
Tuesday, 1.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Bruxelles, Rond Point Schuman 14, 8th floor

National, racial or religious hatred statements which constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence are more and more widespread on the web and it can be argued that online hate speech represents one of the biggest threats to the democratic life of the European Union. Hate speech is also more evident in the current cultural and geopolitical framework, particularly in a time when the political debate in the European Countries and at European level is dominated, often instrumentally and speciously, by the issue of migration.

The conference aims to animate a wide European debate on the most effective cultural and educational strategies and policies which can be used or improved at EU and international level to raise awareness and spread information, tools and proposals in order to contrast the phenomenon of online hate speech, with particular reference to the youth target. The event will be opened by a lecture on the social and cultural reasons of hate speech, followed by a round table with interventions of representatives from EU institutions and international organizations (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, UNHCR, UNESCO) who will describe the main strategies to tackle this phenomenon. A debate session will give the opportunity to all participants to contribute to the discussion.

The conference is part of the project *"REACT - Respect and Equality: Acting and Communicating Together"*, co-funded by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union and implemented by a partnership of twelve international organizations from five European countries (Italy, France, Spain, Germany, UK), coordinated by ARCI Aps (more information at www.reactnohate.eu).

With a focus on monitoring and analysis of the online hate speech episodes, as well as on the identification of effective examples of counter-narrative, the project realized 20 educational paths in schools all over Europe in order to spread media-literacy and awareness among more than 700 youngsters. During the workshops, participants realized several videos of counter-narrative that represented the basis of the project communication campaign, accessible at the following links:

[REACT on Facebook](#)

[REACT on Instagram](#)

INFO AND REGISTRATION: e-mail REACT@ARCI.IT / telephone +39 06 41609217



With the financial support from the Fundamental Rights and
Citizenship Programme of the European Union

PROGRAMME

The rise of online hate speech as a new alarming global social phenomenon: reasons and remedies.

13.30

Welcome and registration

14.00

Introduction

Francesca **CHIAVACCI**, ARCI, President

14.15

Lecture

The social and cultural reasons of hate speech as a global phenomenon and the role of media in spreading and tackling it

Dr. Federico Faloppa – Professor at the Department of Modern Languages, University of Reading

15.15

Coffee break

15.30

Round table

The social impact of online hate speech and the role of education, culture and media to counter the rise of a global phenomenon: which commitment for European policy makers?

Moderator: Nadeesha **Uyangoda**, Al Jazeera

- Pietro **BARTOLO** – European Parliament – Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Maria **ARENA** – European Parliament – Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights
- Massimiliano **SMERIGLIO** – European Parliament – Member of the Committee on Culture and Education
- Louise **HAXTHAUSEN** – UNESCO – Director of the Liaison Office in Brussels and UNESCO Representative to the European Institutions
- Els **KEYTSMAN** – Council of Europe – Member of ECRI European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and Managing Co-Director at UNIA Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities
- Maeve **PATTERSON** – UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Communication and Advocacy Officer, Regional Representation for Western Europe
- Louisa **KLINGVALL** – European Commission – Policy Officer Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG Justice and Consumers

17.00

Questions and answers

17.30

Conclusions