

Oslo, 6. April 2017

Call for participants

TAKING ACTION AGAINST HATE!

Nordic Training Course on Counter and Alternative Narratives to Hate Speech

17th -20th of June 2017, Stavanger, Norway

The No Hate Speech Movement National Campaign Committee in Norway calls for youth participants for a Nordic training seminar on Counter and Alternative narratives from 17th to 20th of June at ["Himmel og Hav conference center"](#) in Stavanger, Norway.

Applications must be submitted by **30 April 2017** through [this online form](#).

Training course 17th to 20th of June

The Norwegian Campaign Committee (Stopp hatprat) together with the No Hate Speech Movement is organising a 4 day Nordic youth training. The training will focus on taking action on hate speech through counter and alternative narratives based on the newly published Council of Europe manual ['We CAN!'](#). The course will strengthen national campaigns in the Nordic countries; identify key issues of young people regarding hate speech and how to take action; and prepare selected youth delegates for the Nordic Hate Speech Conference.

The participants will develop skills and attitudes to counter hate speech and produce their own counter speech to be disseminated online and/or offline. These may be in the form of campaigns, actions, videos, memes, texts, music, art, posters, infographics, interviews, documentaries, storytelling, etc.

The seminar is funded by the Norwegian UNESCO-committee, Erasmus+: Youth in Action and the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Social Inclusion.



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Nordic Conference on Hate Speech 21st of June

The training is organised as a side event to the [Nordic Conference on Hate Speech](#) organised by the Nordic Council of Ministers, which will take place on 21st of June from 09.00 to 16.00 in Stavanger. The conference will be giving a special attention to gender based hate speech. A delegation from the youth training will attend the meeting and present counter narratives from the training and convey a youth message at the event. All applicants are asked to show their interest to attend the Nordic Conference in the application.

Aims and Objectives

The training course aims to develop the competences of young activists and youth leaders from the campaign, youth organisations and youth councils to develop counter and alternative narratives to hate speech. The course objectives include to:

- Identify the underlying narratives behind hate speech and understand the functioning of effective counter and alternative narratives
- Develop participants' competences to create and use counter and alternative narratives to combat hate speech by using the action-oriented step-by-step guide in the 'We CAN' manual
- Develop participants' competences in using the manual 'We CAN'
- Develop proposals for off-/online initiatives to integrate use of counter and alternative narratives in the Nordic and national campaigns
- Prepare a youth message for the Nordic Hate Speech conference and the Youth delegates to deliver it

Profile of participants:

The training course will invite 38 young activists and youth leaders from the campaign, youth organisations and youth councils from the Nordic countries. The participants should be:

- between 16 and 26 years of age
- motivated to challenge hate speech through counter narratives
- be creative and have some previous experience with human rights, equality work or the topic of hate speech
- from diverse backgrounds and contribute with their own skills and knowledge
- motivated to follow-up their counter narratives in their national campaigns or local organisation/environment
- have working knowledge of English

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Counter narratives

Narrative is commonly used as synonym of a story. Yet a narrative is more than just one story, true or fictional. It is a logical, internally coherent 'story' that reports and interprets connected events or pieces of information that makes sense to the listener. Narratives describe those many stories that are shared by groups and which contain beliefs and interpretations of events and our understanding of how reality works. These interpretations or collectively shared stories help us define how we live together.

Counter and alternative narratives combat hate speech by discrediting and deconstructing the narratives on which they are based. They also propose (alternative) narratives based on human rights and democratic values, such as openness, respect for difference, freedom and equality. They may do so by providing alternative and accurate information, by using humour and appealing to emotions on the issues involved, and by accounting for different perspectives and views. Counter narratives

This video made by Against Violent Extremism explains some of the main features of a counter narrative. In this case extremist narratives, but the description applies also to the narratives that hate speech are built upon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oxwZuDe7aM>

Practical information

Venue

The venue of the seminar will be "[Himmel og Hav konferansesenter](#)" in Stavanger, Norway, lying beautifully by the Sola beach close to the airport.



Costs

Costs for food, accommodation and travel for participants to and from the conference venue will be covered. Participants commit to attend the full duration of the training and choose the most affordable form of transportation to the venue.

Travel costs will be reimbursed after the conference and participants are asked to pay their travel in advance. If you are not able to pay for your travel in advance, please contact the organisers.

Arrivals and departures

Participants are expected to arrive on Friday the 16th and departure on the 21st of June. Those who wish to attend the Nordic Conference on the 21st are asked not to book their departure before after the Nordic Conference ends at 16.00 on the 21st. Do not make any preparations before any confirmation on your application being approved.

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Language

The working language will be English.

Applications

The application must be submitted by **30 April 2017** through the online form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ6gJWJ-kPWUQcpKPOTzDkOxalPo_7zksXGZutjjC1hKG5w/viewform

A response to your application will be sent by Monday the 8th of May. Please be ready to book your travel as soon as your participation is confirmed. We encourage everyone to apply, regardless of (dis)ability, sexuality, gender identity, religion and ethnicity.

Further information

For further information please email post@stopphatprat.no

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