

“Report Racism”

WORKSHOP

Module 1: Hate Speech

Duration: 4 hours



Important Information on the Module

Module Title :	Hate Speech: Definition and Potential Consequences
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To raise awareness of hate speech as a multi-dimensional phenomenon.• To provide a shared, comprehensive definition of hate speech.• To discuss the root causes and potential consequences of hate speech.
Name of Trainer	
Learning Outcomes <i>At the end of the workshop, the participants will be able to:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse and identify constitutive elements, root causes, and potential consequences of hate speech• Develop critical thinking, verbal communication, team-work skills, openness, and tolerance.

My Experience of Hate Speech

Have you ever witnessed hate speech?
(10 minutes discussion)



The Cloud of Hate Speech

Let's take a moment to reflect on the **elements which constitute hate speech**.

- You are divided into 4 groups and each group is given a sheet of paper with the word "Hate" written in the middle.
- You have 10 minutes to write down key words related to hate speech. **Red markers** are for words that you **all agree on**, while **blue markers** for **controversial** words.
- You discuss the results.

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The Cloud of Hate Speech



A word cloud centered around the phrase "HATE speech". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. The most prominent words are "HATE" and "speech". Other words include "target", "nationality", "race", "disability", "behaviour", "incitement", "sexual-orientation", "violence", "identity", "ethnicity", "group", "individual", "writing", "religion", "gender", "intolerance", "hostility", "prejudice", "endorsement", "supremacy", and "incitement".



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A Blurred Definition

“Any kind of communication in speech, writing, or behaviour that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are” **(UNSAPHS)**

“The unjustified assumption that a person or a group of persons are superior to others; it incites acts of violence or discrimination, thus undermining respect for minority groups and damaging social cohesion” **(ECRI)**

“To display, to publish, or to have published, to distribute, or to endorse in any way, views and positions which stir up or invite, or may reasonable be expected to stir up or to invite prejudices, hostility, or division between people” **(Charter of European political parties, 1998)**

Constitutive Elements of Hate Speech

- It embeds notions of **supremacy, racism, and intolerance**.
- It is perpetuated through **any kind of communication or behaviour**.
- It targets an individual or a group of individuals on the basis of **identity traits**.
- It incites, whether explicitly or implicitly, **discrimination and violence**.
- Hate messages are often fueled by **misinformation and fallacies** (UNSAPHS, 2017).
 - Anti-migrants discourses: “invasion” vs realities of intern
 - **Video 1: Concept of hate speech through animation**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7e-Dj4nll8> (5'02'')
 - **Video 2: Students' perceptions on different types of hate speech**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skuLK0Ypksl> (5'58'')

- **Hate Speech is a multi-dimensional phenomenon**, which cuts across numerous, fundamental areas such as: human rights protection, protection of civilians, refugee protection, the fight against all forms of racism and discrimination, protection of minorities, sustaining peace, prevention of atrocity crime, preventing and countering terrorism, preventing and addressing gender-based violence, and many more. (UNSPAHS, 2017)



The Thermometer of Hate Speech

The two opposite sides of the room represent, respectively, the highest degree of agreement (“totally agree”) and the lowest degree of agreement (“totally disagree”).

You place yourself along the thermometer according to your personal degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

- *Governments have the responsibility to openly condemn hate speech.*
- *Internet and social media companies and multinationals are the only responsible for the monitoring and eventual banking of online hate messages.*
- *Spreading hate should be a crime.*
- *There is no limit to freedom of speech.*
- *No-hate-speech campaigns are inconsistent and represent mere attempts to stop the rising of right-wing parties.*
- *On average, hate crimes are increasing nowadays.*

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Potential Consequences of Hate Speech

- Permanent tensions within a society have often taken the form of insecurity, fear, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia etc.
- **Hate speech triggers negative societal spirals**, which have led, in the worst cases, to:
 - Rights violation.
 - Violent crimes.
 - Genocide.

1- Discriminatory speech

2- Hate speech

3- Incitement to violence

4- Incitement to terrorism

5- Incitement to genocide



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Hate and the Ten Stages of Genocide

1. **Categorisation:** People are distinguished into “us and them” by ethnicity, race, religion etc.
2. **Symbolisation:** The classifications are given names or other symbols, the “others” are distinguished by colour or dress, and the symbols are applied to the members of groups.
3. **Discrimination:** A dominant group uses law, custom, and political power to deny the rights of other groups.
4. **Dehumanisation:** One group denies the humanity of the other group. At this stage, hate propaganda is used to vilify the victim group. In combating this dehumanisation, incitement to genocide should not be confused with protected speech.
5. **Organisation:** Genocide is always organised, usually by the state.
6. **Polarisation:** Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast polarising propaganda. Laws may forbid intermarriage or social interaction.
7. **Preparation:** National or perpetrator group leaders plan the “Final Solution” to the other, targeted group’s “question”.
8. **Persecution.**
9. **Extermination.**
10. **Denial.**

Hate and Fear

Hate is often an externalisation of fear, which is, in turn, a powerful source for political gain.

In the case of anti-migrants discourses, to channel fear into hatred means dealing with detrimental political effects: fear and hate cause trust within a community to be administrated by closing borders, controlling newcomers, deterring them from entering, expelling them etc. **This creates precise understandings of what a political community should be** (Huysmans, 2006: p11).

“The constitutive power of language does not depend on influencing perceptions, but rather follows from the fact that certain words and discourses carry particular connotations and historical meanings that they invest in social reality” (Huysmans, 2006)



The Tree of Hate Speech

- You are divided into 4 groups and each group is given a sheet of paper, on which the “trunk of hate speech” is represented.
- You draw roots and branches to identify the things which lead to hate speech (the “roots”) and some of the effects of hate speech (the “branches”). Each root can have a deeper cause (root) and each branch a further outcome (higher branch).
- Each group presents its results and displays the trees around the room, so that all of you can walk around and look at them.
- You discuss the results in plenary.



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Review Questions

- What is hate speech?

Any form of communication or behaviour, which targets identity traits of an individual or a group with the intent to incite, explicitly or implicitly, discrimination and violence.

- What are the root causes and potential consequences of hate speech?

Hate is often rooted in real or perceived fear and insecurity. Its consequences are, in different degrees, discrimination, rights abuses, violence in the form of hate crime and, in the worst cases of past and recent history, genocide.



Key Points

- Hate speech is a multi-dimensional phenomenon.
- Either online or offline, it targets an individual or a group on the basis of who they are.
- It is often rooted in fear and insecurity which are compelling assets for political gain.
- It incites discrimination, intolerance, and, in the worst cases, violence.
- Measures against hate speech and for safeguarding freedom of speech are both included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Well done!

You have completed this Module!



Module