



**NO HATE  
SPEECH  
MOVEMENT**

6 December 2017

## Declaration of the National Committee of the NO HATE SPEECH Movement Germany

On Human Rights Day, 10 December

## Human Dignity, Not Hate

Germany's Bundestag election campaign showed signs of it; the parliament's new constellation confirmed it: the tone is growing harsher by the day. Offline and, above all, online hate speech is growing louder. A broad coalition of politicians, media players and ordinary citizens is now taking a firm stand.

**Today, 10 December 2017, Human Rights Day, we shout back loud and clear: Human Dignity, Not Hate!**

Our society is held together by shared values. One of them is freedom of expression. Another is to defend human rights whenever they are under attack. Our shared values are reflected in the laws that have been passed to protect everyone living here against discrimination.

### **Everyone has the right to live free of discrimination**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to everyone in equal measure – irrespective of background, skin colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, dis/ability and religion. All people everywhere have the right to protection from discrimination as well as from the incitement of discrimination in any form. No one should have to tolerate hate speech. A

**Anyone who uses hate speech to put people down, insult or threaten them evidently has no respect for human rights**

We need a countermovement that speaks out loud and clear – and the NO HATE SPEECH movement is leading the way, in Germany and worldwide. Because we must fight back against hate speech. That's why we urge everyone to debate issues in a civil manner – and to intervene, if necessary, and show the red card. For we have no intention of leaving the Internet to rabble-rousers who incite hatred and make threats – we want to stand by those who speak out loud and clear against hate. And to embolden those who until now have kept quiet.

The laws must be re and also enforced; and the network operators must take their share of responsibility. We also call for more education – on human rights, media literacy and critical thinking, for example – as a curricular and extra-curricular activity. Hate speech doesn't affect everyone to the same degree: and to understand why that is so requires a keen political awareness.

Anyone who wants to stamp out hate speech must not only hold the perpetrators to account but also keep an eye on those whom hate speech is directed at. They need our solidarity. That's the only way we can defend human rights.

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### **Signatories**

Aktion Courage e.V. / Schule ohne Rassismus – Schule mit Courage (Schools Without Racism – Schools With Courage), Amadeu Antonio Stiftung (Foundation), Amaro Drom e.V. (Intercultural Youth Organisation), Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes (Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency), AYUDH Europe e.V. (European Youth Network), Belltower.News – Netz für digitale Zivilgesellschaft (Network for Digital Civic Society), Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education, Bundesvereinigung Trans\* (Federal Trans\* Federation), Das NETTZ, debate//de:hate, Deutscher Journalisten-Verband (German Federation of Journalists), Deutscher Bundesjugendring (German Federal Youth Council), Deutscher Fußball-Bund (German Football Association), Fearless Democracy e.V., Fischer Greisner Rechtsanwälte (lawyers), Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle Multimedia-Diensteanbieter (Independent Monitoring of Multimedia Service Operators), Grimme Institut, Kübra Gümüşay, MdB Gabriela Heinrich (MP), #ichbinhier, IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V. (International Youth Service of the FRG), Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration (Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration), i,Slam, Journalisten-Akademie der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (Journalists' Academy of the K.A.-Foundation), Jugendschutz.net (Youth Protection Network), Junge Europäische Föderalisten (Young European Federalists), Klicksafe.de, MdB Renate Künast (MP), MdB Monika Lazar (MP), Lesben- und Schwulenverband (Lesbian & Gay Federation in Germany), Muslimische Jugend in Deutschland (Muslim Youth in Germany), Neue deutsche Medienmacher e.V. (New German Media and Mentoring Association), Online-Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus (Online Counselling for the Prevention of Right-wing Extremism), MdB Petra Pau (MP), RomaDay, MdB Susann Rührich (MP), Salaam-Schalom (Intercultural Activists' Initiative), Servicestelle Jugendbeteiligung (Youth Participation Service Centre), Sozialhelden (Social Heroes), Ufuq (Civic Education and Prevention), Unterhaltungssoftware Selbstkontrolle (Independent Monitoring of Entertainment Software), MdB Konstantin von Notz (MP), Anne Wizorek, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius (Foundation), Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland (Central Board of Jewish Welfare in Germany)

### **#NoHateSpeech #LoveHumanRights**

#### **About Us**

*NO HATE SPEECH is a youth campaign of the Council of Europe for human rights online, coordinated by the not-for-profit Neue Deutsche Medienmacher e.V. and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, in the framework of the government programme Demokratie leben (Living Democracy). The National Committee of the NO HATE SPEECH movement, a broad coalition of stakeholders in civic life and politics, is committed to reducing online hate speech.*

*We show that the haters online are not in the majority. Within the international NO HATE SPEECH movement, which involves 44 countries worldwide, we are now the second largest national campaign.*

#### **Statistics and Facts about Hate Speech Online**

*In a Eurobarometer special survey in 2016, 75% of participants said they had experienced hatred online. 48% said this was why they hesitated to get involved in discussions. A Forsa Survey in May 2017 came to the conclusion that almost all 14 to 24-year-olds (94%) had encountered hate speech online. The overwhelming majority of Internet users (79%) claimed to be appalled by it. While in 2016 more than half of the users (51%) took no action, in 2017 only 41% did not post a critical response. According to a Europarat survey of 2015, the main targets of hate speech are lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transsexuals and intersexuals (LGBTI), followed by Muslims and women.*

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