

NETWORKS AGAINST HATE

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FELGTB

Federación Estatal de Lesbianas,
Gais, Transexuales y Bisexuales



Plataforma de ONG
de Acción Social



ICELAND
LIECHTENSTEIN
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OVERVIEW

The project '**Networks against hate**' seeks to integrate authorities, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement bodies, civil society and media in a coordinated response to hate crimes and discrimination experienced by LGBT people. The program focuses on evidence collection, raising social awareness, promoting legislative developments and care for the victims. The project has been granted with €138,000 from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway EEA Funds and it will be implemented from May 2014 to September 2015.

BACKGROUND

Hate crimes and sexual orientation or gender identity related discrimination is very common and normalized in our society. Many victims are not aware of being discriminated, some of them can even justify aggressions as "deserved".

More than 80% of hate crimes towards LGBT people are unreported (2-4). Possible reasons

include fear to become visible as a LGBT person in a local setting, victimization or even fear to be blamed for the incident reported. It is also very common the lack of perception of the aggression as a crime. In any case, most of the crimes towards LGBT people are unpunished.

70% of LGBT people report being victim of homophobic aggressions at least once in the lifetime. The normalization of the violence leads to 61 % of those victims not reporting to decrease the perceived gravity of aggressions.

One of the most problematic issues is the absence of surveillance systems and quantitative data collection in a systematic way by police and prosecutors, as well as from NGOs. This would allow us to use better measures in order to calculate the extent of the hate crimes related to sexual orientation and gender identity. The lack of coordination among actors involved in the response to discrimination and hate crimes, reinforce the

invisibility of the problem. As a consequence, it is not possible to make a complete picture from the reported events (5).

The problem is not only the mentioned low rate of complaints, but also the lack of complete computer registration systems for this type of complaints and the lack of variables to register to what extend the aggressions were motivated by victim's sexual orientation or gender identity. The root of the problem is ignorance of facts constitutive of sexual orientation/gender identity related discrimination as well as lack of awareness on what circumstantial evidence could show the presence of homophobia or transphobia as aggravating circumstances of the crime.

In many cases, victims are unaware of how to proceed for filing a complaint and the law enforcement bodies or the Prosecutor's offices are unaware of what facts are related to homophobia or transphobia as aggravating circumstances. On the other side, the support and guidance role of LGBT organizations with respect to victims of discrimination and hate crimes is largely unknown (6) and its response capacity has been decreasing due to lack of resources. This situation decreases the trust of the victims in the capacity of institutions and NGOs to meet their needs. In addition, this situation generates impunity for the perpetrators.



WHAT DOES FELGTB PROPOSE?

Through networking against hate, FELGTB proposes the coordination of different actors involved in the response against hate crimes, both within the administration field and civil society. This coordination will result in the development of tools, procedures, training activities and awareness.

The program aims To increase the visibility of hate crimes caused by real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity of victims, and to make progress in the collection and systematization of data.

The ultimate goal is to raise awareness throughout society about this issue, to promote legislative changes and to provide better support and guidance to victims in order to ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished.

(1) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights .European LGBT Survey. 2013

(2) COGAM. Informe SOS Homofobia. Madrid 2008. Available on <http://www.cogam.es/secciones/stop-homo-transfobia/documentos/i/429153/492/resultados-del-sondeo-de-sos-homofobia-2008> Consultado el 05 de agosto 2014

(3) Lorente S y Ramirez E. Casi un 90% de los delitos de odio en Europa no se denuncian. EL PAIS. 15 de julio de 2014. Available on http://sociedad.elpais.com/sociedad/2014/07/11/actualidad/1405071261_649617.html

(4) Fiscalía de Delitos de Odio y Discriminación de Barcelona. Informe de 2010. Available on http://www.gitanos.org/upload/03/63/Fiscalia_BCN_memoria_2010.pdf. Consultado el 05 de agosto 2014

(5) FELGTB. Hate crimes and sexual orientation/Gender Identity in Spain 2013. Madrid; 2013

According to the FRA report, 80 % of the cases of violence or harassment due to sexual orientation and gender identity are not denounced

CONTENT OF NETWORKS AGAINST HATE

Multidisciplinary working group

This working group will involve professionals from public prosecutors' and public defender offices, security forces, and representatives from the State and regional administrations. On behalf of the civil society, people who have been victims of hate crimes, NGOs and media will take part in the group.

This working group will detect good practices in Norway and Iceland, and also training and awareness needs among different agents. The scope of this group will be to find solutions to the mentioned problems in order to achieve the best responses.

Outcome: Report about police management of social diversity.

Outcome: Report on proposals for political and institutional response to hate crimes caused by sexual orientation or gender identity.

Seminar

A one-day seminar for exchange of experiences and good practices aimed at 100 people will take place in Madrid. The planned date is May, 2015. The registration fee will be of 25 € and 30 scholarships will be offered. Registration, accommodation and travelling will be awarded for young victims of crime of hate or cyber bullying. The Conference will present the latest available data on hate crimes against LGBT people in Spain.



Observatory

FELGTB will launch an observatory of sexual orientation/gender identity related hate crimes to collect and systematize information. Its goals will be to serve as focal point for victims, who will be offered attention and counseling, and to disseminate information.

Output: quarterly reports



Cyber volunteering

A group of cyber volunteers will be created, including 15 young activists. They will be responsible for monitoring and reporting the existence of hate speech on the Internet, as well as identifying situations of cyber bullying, offering advice and supporting to victims. Among other activities, the group will collaborate in the dissemination of the campaign "Do not Hate Speech" from the Council of Europe.

Campaign

The awareness of the population, administrations and LGBT population about discrimination facts and hate crime motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity are fundamental in the networking against hate. This will be done through a campaign composed of different elements and it will be launched in December 2014.

Outcome: Web page about hate crimes and discrimination.

Outcome: Spot dissemination in social networks

Outcome: Cards and flyers about the program and the Observatory.

Report on LGBT rights in Spain

A report will be produced showing the current situation of discrimination caused by sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be done through a systematic analysis of legislation, regulations, protocols and everyday practice in different settings, and it will also contain case load collected at the Observatory of hate crimes.



WHY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKING AGAINST HATE?

The networks against hate program represents an important step in the fight against discrimination and hate crimes against LGBT people in our country.

Our coordinated work with institutions and other similar networks will lead to an improvement of the diagnosis and the answer to this problem. This will allow victims to better knowing procedures to follow as well as available support and guidance resources. The programme will also contribute to reduce the presence of hate speech on the Internet and to increase awareness and training of

institutions in charge of victims support.

Networks against hate has a total budget of €153.333, 00 € and it will be implemented between May 2014 and September 2015. It has been granted with €138,000 through the EEA Fund, from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The program is cofunded by Factor Clave, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Google.



Partners

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