

# ARTICLE

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## **ZERO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HATE SPEECH**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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## **1 MARCH IS... ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY**

On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.



*The butterfly is the symbol*

## **Discriminatory speech and violent acts – what should be our response?**

The Youth2Unite project shares this goal. We want to Reduce discrimination, improve intercultural communication, raise awareness about different identities and increase active citizenship;

It is now more than ever necessary to encourage and conduct a reflection on discrimination. As hate speech pervades Europe, discriminatory violence is on the increase. Although many governments are willing to propose a range of solutions to combat these acts, there is still a need for prevention.

Associations in Europe carry out awareness-raising work, often focusing on minorities that are particularly affected. Their considerable work is often carried out with young audiences with the desire to tackle prejudice from an early age.

It is difficult to fight against discrimination among young people without addressing sensitive and sometimes private subjects. How to facilitate a general awareness?

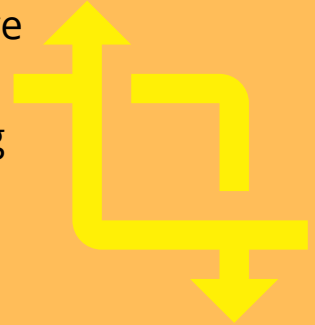
The project aims to work directly with young people by means of an online kit enabling them to understand hate mechanisms and to find the best ways of intervening when they are confronted with discriminatory acts or statements.

Addressing the fight against discrimination is promoting citizenship across Europe.

# ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO...

## ***JOIN THE TRANSFORMATION***

Celebrate everyone's right to live a full and productive life with dignity—no matter what they look like, where they come from or whom they love. By joining hearts and voices, individuals, communities and societies can transform the world every day and everywhere. Highlight how everyone can become informed and promote tolerance, compassion and peace.



## ***OPEN UP, REACH OUT***

Celebrate diversity and to reject discrimination. By joining our voices together, we can be part of a resounding call for compassion, tolerance and peace.



## ***STAND OUT***

Join together against discrimination and celebrate everyone's right to live a full and productive life with dignity. Gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language or any other status should never be a reason to discriminate.



## ***MAKE SOME NOISE***



Discrimination continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world and causes pain and suffering for many. Make some noise to challenge discrimination, wherever it happens.

Individuals and communities can join voices and transform the world. Highlight how everyone can be part of the transformation and take a stand for a fair and just society.

## ***REFLECT UPON THEIR OWN ACTIONS***



Discrimination is often based on misinformation or fear of the unknown. Reflect on people in everyday situations, recognize where everyday discrimination takes place and to take action to stop it. Ask themselves “What if ...” and to reflect upon their own actions.

No one should ever be discriminated against because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, language, health (including HIV) status, geographical location, economic status or migrant status, or for any other reason. Unfortunately, however, discrimination continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world. Many people face discrimination every day based on who they are or what they do.

## ***ACT TO CHANGE LAWS THAT DISCRIMINATE***

Highlight the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws.

In many countries, laws result in people being treated differently, excluded from essential services or being subject to undue restrictions on how they live their lives, simply because of who they are. Such laws are discriminatory—they deny human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ending discrimination and changing laws is the responsibility of us all. Everyone can play a part in ending discrimination and can try to make a difference, in ways both big and small. Challenges people to act against laws that discriminate in their country.



# ZERO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

On Zero Discrimination Day 2020, UNAIDS was challenging the discrimination faced by women and girls in all their diversity and raising awareness and mobilizing action to promote equality and empowerment for women and girls.

Although some countries have made laudable progress towards greater gender equality, discrimination against women and girls still exists everywhere. Intersecting with other forms of discrimination—based, for example, on income, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity—these rights violations disproportionately harm women and girls. Ultimately, gender inequality affects everyone's health and well-being. In many countries, laws that discriminate against women and girls remain in force, while laws that uphold women's basic rights and protect them against harm and unequal treatment are far from the norm.



**#ZERO DISCRIMINATION**  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

# YOUTH2UNITE

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**STAND UP**

**AGAINST HATE AND VIOLENCE**



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