

#ElectNoHate appeal launch: EU Elections

[Press Release](#), [European Parliament](#), [European Union](#)

ILGA-Europe and 21 other civil society organisations and unions today launch #ElectNoHate, our joint call for EU elections campaigning free from hate speech and divisive rhetoric, which legitimise hateful actions and pose a threat to human rights.

MEP candidates, politicians, the media and those in the public eye are asked not only to avoid engaging in, or amplifying, rhetoric that may incite discrimination, prejudice or hatred on any grounds, but also to actively counter it.

The diversity of organisations behind this appeal – working across the EU for justice in the areas of human rights, labour rights, development and the environment – reflects how hate speech and divisive rhetoric inextricably pervade and threaten all aspects of our lives, most notably in the context of populism and extremism.

“At a time when hate speech and divisive rhetoric cause a worrying backlash and backsliding for all human rights across Europe, ILGA-Europe considers it crucial to unite with a broad and diverse alliance of organisations to take a clear stand against hate speech and divisive rhetoric targeting any community.” commented ILGA-Europe’s Executive Director Evelyne Paradis.

She added: “The protection of one group must never be used as an excuse for discriminating against others. This is why all EU election candidates signing ILGA-Europe’s [ComeOut](#) pledge are also requested to sign the #ElectNoHate appeal.”

In Europe and elsewhere, recent evidence highlights how hate speech and divisive rhetoric lead to harm in everyday life.

A 147% spike in homophobic and transphobic hate crimes (1) and a [41% increase](#) in the number of racially or religiously aggravated crimes (2) following the Brexit referendum campaign is a stark example of this. Women – who are in general [27 times more likely than men to be harassed online](#) (3) – also experience exceptionally high levels of violence in politics, with 85.2% of women reporting having suffered psychological violence while in office. (4)

The list of signatories are as follows:

- Amnesty International Europe
- A.R.T Fusion Romania
- Associazione Crea
- Corporate Europe Observatory
- Culture Action Europe
- European Alternatives
- European Disability Forum
- European Movement International
- European Network Against Racism
- European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network

- European Trade Union Confederation
- Fern
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenpeace
- Human Rights Without Frontiers
- IGLYO
- ILGA-Europe
- IPPF European Network
- Light for the World International
- Riksförbundet För Sexuell Upplysning
- Social Platform
- TGEU

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1. ?The Hate Crime Report 2016: Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the UK [Galop, 2016]
 2. Hate crime, England and Wales, 2015 to 2016 [UK Home Office], <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>
 3. #HerNetHerRights: Mapping the state of online violence against women & girls in Europe [European Women's Lobby, 2017], https://www.womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/hernetherrights_report_2017_for_web.pdf