

NO HATE PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCE Activities and achievements in 2016



**Milena Santerini,
General Rapporteur
on combating racism
and intolerance**

” The fight against hatred requires patience, dialogue and inclusion



” We should avoid both negative stereotyping and an idealised vision which underestimates the challenges.

Ms Milena Santerini



Berlin, 6 September 2016

The crucial role of politicians in tackling anti-Gypsyism

Members of the Alliance are in general agreement about their crucial role in the fight against anti-Gypsyism. Developing good neighbourhoods, education and job opportunities is essential in order to counter this form of racism (*meeting of the No Hate Alliance, Stockholm, 18 May, and conference Confronting Anti-Gypsyism, Berlin, 6 September 2016*).

Efforts of the Alliance to promote the fight against racism, hatred and intolerance in France

Members of the Alliance concluded that the challenge of controlling hate speech on the internet is not so much a technical one as a political and legal one. Also, the balance between the fight against radicalisation and respect for fundamental freedoms is essential in a democratic society. All forms of discrimination must be combatted simultaneously, as they are closely intertwined and all stem from a common root.



National seminar on combatting racism, hatred and intolerance, Paris, 8 September 2016

No Hate Alliance raised concerns about antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe

Even though antisemitism and Islamophobia may differ, the roots of both are in hatred and intolerance. Preventing and combatting these scourges requires more solidarity, not only towards victims from society at large, but also between target groups (*round-table on "Combating Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe", organised by ARDI at the European Parliament, Brussels, 16 February 2016*).

The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:

- ▶ gained increased support from leading personalities worldwide;
- ▶ created dialogue between parliamentarians on how to combat hatred, racism and intolerance;
- ▶ mobilised parliaments of Council of Europe member States to take action against hatred (**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** adoption of a declaration condemning hate speech; **Germany:** launch of a "Hate is no opinion" campaign; **Italy:** establishment of "Jo Cox" study committee on racism, intolerance and hate phenomena);
- ▶ reached out to networks representing over 200 organisations (NGOs and equality bodies) for future collaboration with members of the Alliance;

Brussels, 16 February 2016



Alliance members commemorated victims of hate crime all over Europe

■ The protection of victims should be at the heart of our action against all manifestations of hate. This requires an effort by everybody: citizens and civil society, major internet players and public authorities. With everyone's contribution, we can curb hate crime: "the antidote to hate is solidarity," Ms Santerini said (*European Action Day for Victims of Hate Crimes, 22 July 2016*).



Promoting dialogue and co-operation with civil society to efficiently combat racism and intolerance

■ The legislation in place is not enough to prevent and combat racism; Ms Santerini stressed that it is also important to change mindsets and have politicians involved in combatting hate speech and racism. Civil society representatives expressed their will to co-operate with parliamentarians in these matters (*meeting with media and civil society organisations, Council of Europe Office, Brussels, 25 May 2016*).



Brussels, 25 May 2016

Promoting No Hate at the World Forum for Democracy

■ Opening the forum's lab on "Reinventing School Governance", Ms Santerini underlined that forms of racism today are often based on fear and other negative emotions. The Alliance aims to counter racism by proving such emotions are unfounded, including by practising dialogue and democracy at school (*World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 8 November 2016*).

The No Hate Alliance inspired Italian politicians in their fight against racism, intolerance and hatred

■ A study committee on intolerance, xenophobia, racism and hate phenomena was established within the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Participants concurred that online hate speech may be countered in various ways, including through "counter-speech" and engaging in dialogue with "haters". Co-operation from social media and effective reporting systems remain crucial (*national seminar on hate speech, Rome, 4 April 2016*).

- ▶ managed to reach parliamentarians in **36** Council of Europe member States, and beyond, who signed the Charter of Commitments;
- ▶ reached a membership of **56**;
- ▶ held or participated in **14** seminars, meetings, hearings and other activities;
- ▶ raised awareness of anti-Gypsyism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, discrimination based on ethnic origin and hate speech;
- ▶ launched the Alliance webpage;
- ▶ reached over **400** followers of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on social media.

Rome, 4 April 2016



An alliance of parliamentarians committed to taking open, firm and proactive stands against racism, hatred and intolerance, no matter what form they take or on what they are based.

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<http://website-pace.net/en/web/apce/no-hate-alliance>

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

