

9 November • International Day Against Fascism & Antisemitism

REMEMBER



UNITED against fascism and antisemitism

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REMEMBER

IT HAPPENED THEN



In 1945, Europe thought to have defeated Fascism, but nationalist, fascist, antisemitic and xenophobic ideologies still remain alive in today's political rhetoric. Although the way fascism is voiced has drastically changed, the basic characteristics of fascism and the methods for gaining support from the wider public remain the same. Fascist ideas gain support among different social groups especially in times of political and economical crises, destroy democratic liberties and discriminate members of specific (ethnic) minorities and people with different views. Fascists believe in the just leadership of a strong man, instead of parliamentary democracy, and builds on a strong nationalism that often turns racist. The word 'fascism' was coined by the Italian dictatorship of Mussolini. Those who believe in this ideology nowadays are called 'neo-fascists'. In today's Europe, fascism with the irrational glorification of nation and state, the opportunistic identification of various "threats", and the presentation of the "will of the people" as the will of the leader, or the leading group is more common than we might think.

Compare Populist Rhetorics

In the last EU Parliament elections, far-right parties gained 59 seats (+ 24 for the UK anti immigration party). 2 far right parties - the Danish People's Party (DFP) and the French National Front (FN) - even became the biggest party in their respective countries. Representatives from 2 more or less openly neo-nazi parties (Golden Dawn from Greece and National Democratic Party in Germany) and 1 fascist party (Jobbik from Hungary) will also fill seats in the new EU Parliament. Although in most countries the far right lost more representatives than it gained, the influence of fascist, antisemitic and neo-nazi ideals, policies and methods is still present and strong in Europe. The danger of this influence is not directly in the number of far-right MEPs, it is in the negative and populist rhetoric creating a fruitful soil in which the seed of extremism, hatred and irrationality can grow.

People are looking for someone to blame - comparable to the 1930s the dangerous "us" and "them" rhetoric is again commonplace. Hate not only leads to violence, discrimination and exclusion, but is a dangerous threat to democracy and peace as well. Europe has been here before: it ended in the Holocaust.

Sounds extreme, doesn't? A comparison of famous fascist and nazi rhetoric with today's far right shows us that its influence on European policies, ideals and public opinion is far from absent. The rhetoric is now more obscured, but the message is still similar. All over Europe, right-wing political leaders find numerous threats against their respective societies, and

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these threats are almost always 'foreign', from outside the dominant social group; According to these far-right politicians and leaders, they are the only ones that are capable of finding appropriate 'solutions' to the problems in society; And they offer a solution which rejects all that is different.

Do not accept hate!

Though in numbers there are not many fascists throughout Europe, however, the constant voicing of xenophobic messages in media and politics causes 'normalisation' and leads to 'acceptance' of hate. Society keeps silent. People become bystanders to their own fate and to the fate of the whole European society.

So, what can we do about this? We can Think. See. Listen. Speak. Protest. Resist. And Remember:

Remember that all that is really needed for fascism, nationalism, antisemitism and xenophobia to grow is a fertile soil from where it can spread its' hate and irrationality. And, in addition, enough bystanders believing that 'it is not so dangerous as it was before.'

But, do we need to fear? No, not anymore. We need to be aware and act. And cooperate with responsible political leaders to act together. Today's Europe is clear: we do not want a repetition of the holocaust, and we do not want any group raising above all others. We must step out from being a bystander, learn from the past and take a common stand for our future.

Night of the broken glass?

9 November 1938, the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom was the first step towards the extermination of the Jewish Europeans by the nazis. SA Storm Troopers and civilians destroyed more than 8000 Jewish homes and shops, set synagogues on fire, imprisoned, injured and killed Jews all across the country. Pieces of broken windows covering the streets in many German cities gave rise to the name 'Kristallnacht' which freely translated means the Night of Broken Glass.

Today this pogrom is seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, the systematic eradication of Jewish people which started with the discrimination and exclusion of the German Jews since 1933 and which eventually led to the murder of 6 million Jewish people and 5,5 million 'enemies of the German state': homosexuals, criminals and 'asocial' people, members of diverse religious communities, people with mental disabilities, political 'offenders' such as communists and socialists, Spanish republican refugees and minorities like Roma and Sinti and others. The 'Kristallnacht' reminds us

that such terrible things did not start with deportations and concentration camps, but were developed step by step. Nazi propaganda and hate speech against Jews and laws depriving Jewish citizens of their rights (the 'Nuremberg Laws' i.e. stripped German Jews of their citizenship) were the first steps, eventually culminating in violence and pogroms.

Why campaign on 9 november?

Do we even need to ask this question?

We need to make sure the past is not forgotten. Fascist groups again search for scapegoats, and encourage us to hate our neighbour. We must be aware that the Holocaust happened with the silent acceptance and support of the broad majority. Nowadays, hate crimes are frequent realities, extreme right-wing parties are elected into parliaments and xenophobic propaganda is becoming legitimate in societies.

It is the duty of a democratic European civil society to transmit generation by generation a collective memory based on the concept "Holocaust - Never Again" as a way to overcome hatred, right-wing extremism and totalitarian ideology. Thus, when we say "Never Again", it means that we commit ourselves to do everything in our power to prevent persecution, oppression, and genocides by totalitarian regimes before they can manifest.

Since 1992 the UNITED network stimulates and coordinates around 9 November the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism and calls upon the international community to bring an end to hate. The aim is two-fold; firstly, we commemorate victims of the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom and victims of fascism throughout history. Secondly, we want people to be aware of the danger of nationalism, populism, antisemitism, right-wing extremism and neo-fascism today. We mobilise a wide variety of groups and individuals to build a common front against hate ideologies and violence.



Every year, hundreds of organisations and informal groups in over 45 countries take an active part in the campaigns. People oppose hate in their communities and promote inclusion in these activities. It is time for you, too! The campaign is pluralist and open: there is place and space for all.

We use different approaches but we have one shared vision of a society without hatred and discrimination, based on equality and human rights. Fascism and antisemitism is not only a local issue and this Europe-wide campaign can help to set the agenda on all levels. By linking local and national actions we make our movement visible and generate European-wide publicity. By acting together on 1 common date we draw European-wide attention from the media, the general public, and also policy makers, to our common demand.

We ask NGOs, community organisations, schools, local municipalities and individuals –and YOU– to join forces and confront hate with local actions. Organise activities, join the Facebook page, check the campaign website, support others, spread the message: JOIN the 9 November Campaign and Remember!

SPECIAL INITIATIVE by CoE

Stop Hate Speech Online: Campaign of the Council of Europe

Young People Combating Hate Speech Online



This Europe-wide campaign is a project against hate speech, racism and discrimination online. Initiated and run by the Council of Europe, it stands for equality, dignity, human rights and diversity. The campaign is against expressions of hate speech online in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as forms of cyber-bullying and cyber-hate.

The Internet has become a global space for communication and participation. Online, we can create, upload, comment, share and use media content in many ways and with very little effort. Internet users have a right to perceive their online interactions as benefitting from the freedoms of expression and information. However, reality tells us that the online world is also a space where the values of human rights are often ignored or violated. Among others, hate speech online has become a major form of human rights abuse, with very serious consequences for people, both online and offline. Young people are directly concerned as victims, targets, active and passive agents.

** "Hate speech, as defined by the Council of Europe, covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin."*

Online Campaign tools

- www.nohatespeechmovement.org is an online platform with testimonials of young people, including self-made videos and photos. Here you can sign petitions, and learn how to take action. Moderation is organised among young activists. On the Blog, activities carried out in the framework of national campaigns and European activities are shared. In the Forum, activists and members of the Movement discuss issues arising from the Hate Speech Watch - the perfect place for online activists!
- Hate Speech Watch is an online database to report, monitor, share, and discuss hate speech content found on the Internet. Moderators facilitate discussion and create focus topics every month.
- Campaign Coordination Website: if your organisation wants to join the Campaign, there is a portal with campaign material and the latest campaign information. Here you can also find the Campaign Toolkit: It provides practical and methodological support in online campaigning.
- Bookmarks, a campaign pack for secondary schools to support teachers and educators in addressing online hate speech with students and to involve them in the campaign. National and regional training courses, based on Bookmarks, are organised to develop the competences of teachers and facilitators in non-formal education and to tackle the issues of the campaign.

Want to find out more on why it is important to take action against hate speech? Have a look at the presentation of Gavan Titley from the National University of Ireland at:

www.nohatespeechmovement.org

Join the 2014 campaign

You can organise public discussions, meetings with eye-witnesses, demonstrations, commemoration activities, conferences, poster and media actions, cultural events and much more on 9 November. See for ideas the 'Get Active! - The How to Organise an Activity?' - Guide and good practices on the campaign site.

Add your voice to thousands of others; by speaking out together for an intercultural open society we are louder, our message is stronger and it travels further. Everybody can give a valuable contribution to commemorate 'Kristallnacht'. Being active against fascism and antisemitism does not necessarily require large organisational capacities, big budgets or years of experience – in fact, even the smallest event can make a big difference, and all that is needed from you is creativity and the will to act.

How you can support the campaign

- Organise your own (local) actions.
- Announce these activities to us! Mail us your ideas, flyers, invitations, posters, press releases and links to your campaign activities before they take place.
- Tweet about your activity with #Remember9Nov.
- Contribute to UNITED's online reporting and share news, reports, newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, online coverage and feedback after the event.
- Like Facebook/UNITEDDayAgainstFascism.
- Ask your local city government to take a stand against hate (see below).

How united can help you

- You can order up to 2kg **FREE campaign material**: posters, postcards and stickers. A wide variety of educational leaflets that provide best practices and background information about topics relevant for every day anti-racism work is also available. Fill in the order form at www.DayAgainstFascism.eu. If you need more material for special purposes, do not hesitate to contact UNITED.
- The campaign will be promoted through Social Media:
 - Interactive event map on www.DayAgainstFascism.eu
 - Facebook/UNITEDDayAgainstFascism
 - Twitter @UNITED__Network
- A UNITED media release will be sent out to all major European press agencies, newspapers, etc. We will also send it to you so you can use it to inform your own media contacts.
- Use our online database on www.unitedagainstracism.org to find like-minded organisations in other countries, or in your own country. Call UNITED if you cannot find a partner for your activities. We can help you to find other NGOs in your country who are planning activities.

We are united

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism, and in support of migrants and refugees. Racism, nationalism, fascism, discrimination, restrictive migration and asylum policies, these issues have a European dimension. It is important to fight intolerance on all levels. Linked through UNITED, more than 550 organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds, from 48 European countries, work together on a voluntary basis. They base their cooperation on common actions, shared activities and on mutual respect. UNITED is and will remain independent from all political parties, organisations and states, but seeks an active co-operation with other anti-racist initiatives in Europe.

Through the UNITED network, organisations meet each other, work on common actions and share information. European-wide campaigns are planned and discussed at UNITED conferences. Like-minded organisations meet each other at such conferences and work together on specific projects and topics. The people at the secretariat are in constant contact with the network organisations, ensuring that information and proposals for action are processed rapidly.

Information is received from more than 2700 organisations and mailings go out to 10.000 contacts in Europe. If you want to get involved, discuss the ideas and aims of the UNITED network within your organisation. Let us know when your organisation would like to support, join or receive information. And add UNITED to your mailing list!

INVOLVE your CITY GOVERNMENT

Political, religious, and social leaders can show their braveness and leadership when standing up for a society without hate. Mayors, ministers, and other politicians have shown their support to previous UNITED campaigns and are asked to do so again.

Many local politicians and city governments oppose discrimination, fascism, antisemitism and hate. They look for ways to create cohesion within their city. In creating actions together with your city government, you can take a common stand against hate and reach more people with our common message. Local authorities expressing their support for the campaign through clear statements against hate will help our message reach out even further. We would like them to join the campaign.

On the occasion of 9 November, we ask you as NGOs to ask your city to take a stand against hate, and we will publish this commitment Europe-wide.

How to involve your local authorities in this campaign:

- Ask your mayor, a leading politician or a prominent person to make a short statement supporting the campaign 'REMEMBER' and take a picture with this person holding this Campaign poster. Email the statement and the photo to 9November@unitedagainstracism.org and we will publish it on our website and Facebook.
- Ask your city to join the campaign and show the posters in the public transport, local newspapers, government website, and billboards.
- Cooperate with your local authorities in organising activities and thus make this campaign's message reach out to more people.

UNITED and the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR - www.eccar.info) have agreed to cooperate in the European-wide campaigns against racism, fascism, and intolerance..

UNITED is SUPPORTED by

more than 550 organisations from 48 European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service and the EVS, Grundtvig and Leonardo Programmes of the European Union.

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UNITED for Intercultural Action

European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants & refugees

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