

No Hate Alliance national seminar, Rome 4 April 2016

What does hate speech look like in Italy today and who are its victims? What can and should be done to counter it? These were the main questions debated at the first national seminar of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, held in Rome, at the Chamber of Deputies, on 4 April 2016.

Ms Milena Santerini, Coordinator of the Alliance, underlined that defending a target group should never mean attacking another. Online hate speech may be countered in various ways, including "counter-speech" and engaging in a dialogue with "haters". Cooperation from social media and effective reporting systems remain crucial, Ms Santerini added. Mr Michele Nicoletti, chair of the Italian delegation to PACE, praised the Council of Europe No Hate activities. "Le parole uccidono" ("Words kill") a milestone awareness raising campaign of 2014, was presented by Stefano Bernocchi, one of its authors. Stefano Valenti of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) presented the recently published General policy recommendation no.15 on hate speech. Ms Stefania Giannini, Italian Minister of Education, University and Research, announced that "Bookmarks", the Council of Europe's manual to combat online hate speech, would be distributed to all Italian high-schools and teachers would be encouraged to use it.

A parliamentary committee inspired by the No Hate Alliance was established within the Chamber of Deputies: the *Study Committee on intolerance, xenophobia, racism and hate phenomena*, composed of parliamentarians and experts, will hold its first meeting on 10 May 2016. Several members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (Ms Centemero, Mr Kronbichler and Ms Santerini), other MPs, scholars and civil society organisations will be part of this new body, as well as the Council of Europe, represented by the Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni.

[Video on Radio Radicale](#) (*Italian only*)