



**MOTION AGAINST HATE SPEECH**  
**presented by the The Councillor in charge of Equal Opportunities**  
**(prot n. 1646 of 19/03/2015)**  
**unanimously approved by the Council of Andrano (24/03/2015)**

The current initiative comes from the need, as decreed by the Italian Constitution, to promote and ensure equal access to rights as expressed from the logic of substantial equality and from the development of opportunities of social inclusion of the numerous subjects with fewer opportunities who lives in condition of strong discrimination.

The aim of the current motion is to commit the City Council to the active promotion of actions of prevention and awareness on the themes about Hate Speeches, that is all that speeches that are often used on media, social networks and, more often, in ideological speeches used by politicians in order to stimulate collective feelings of fears and to promote a wider political and electoral consent.

Moreover, the term “hate speech” shall be understood as covering 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. (Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers” Recommendation 97(20).

As easily deducible, the diffusion of the Hate Speech ‘phenomenon’ implicates a wide range of situations, people and socio-cultural contexts difficult to be mapped and monitored: it is enough to think about school bullying, populist movements on social networks, fan/sport racism, verbal and non verbal violence against women, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQ communities, unemployed people, elderly people, Roma people. All these phenomena are leading to a society totally involved and too much focused on stigma, prejudice and on word which creates ghettos.

Within the institutional and regulatory framework, we may recall:

\* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 2, Section 753): “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.

\* The Charter Of Fundamental Rights Of The European Union: “Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected” (article 1). “Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited” (article 21).

\* The Constitution of the Italian Republic: “All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law, without distinction of sex, race, language, religion, political opinion, personal and social conditions”

\* The Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin ;

\* The Italian Legislative Decree of 9/07/2003, n. 215, about “Implementation of the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin;

On this line, several youth movements born within the support of the Council of Europe that are attempting map, stimulate awareness, prevention and fight to Hate Speech.

Thus, it is more than appropriate the solicitation of the civil organizations ‘South Europe Youth Forum’ (SEYF, Andrano) and ‘Liberamente e Apertamente’ (LeA, Lecce) which are developing initiatives against Hate Speech trying to involve policy, citizens and civil society through a structured and permanent dialogue.

In particular, SEYF has promoted the project ‘Social Rightwork’ with the support of the Council of Europe and published the “Manual On Hate Speech Online Hate Speech On Line: Capacity Building Workshop” (ISBN 978-88-908980-5-1), the first Italian complete study of mapping, prevention and fight of Hate Speech among young people with the aim to provide young people, NGOs and stakeholders with new information, tools and skills on the various and new universe of online discrimination.

On the same line, LeA is promoting, in cooperation with the ‘Centro Servizi di Volontariato del Salento’ workshop on the use of a proper communication for LGBTQ people that involves communicators and journalists.

From the solicitation of the above mentioned organizations, I propose a Motion the City Council of the Municipality of Andrano, as institution representing the whole community, in order to promote any initiative useful to combat Hate Speech, to stimulate the creation of a large awareness campaign involving people from the early age and schools and to create tools for the security and the prevention of discrimination based on the use of Hate Speech and discrimination.

It is unthinkable, in our evolute society, to face ordinary and daily violence and discrimination which injure and harm people against the principles of freedom and human dignity decreed by our Constitution.

Now, that being stated, I invite the Council to:

- a) adhere to the network of “Hate Speech Movement” launched by the Council of Europe and present in Italy with the national campaign committee led by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Youth and Civil Service Department)
- b) promote the constitution of an inter-sectorial Monitoring Unit/observatory, together with institutions, schools, non profit organizations, prefecture, in order to analyse Hate Speech, to promote awareness in the public opinion and positive actions against every type of intolerance and discrimination.

**The Councillor of the Municipality of Andrano  
in charge of Equal Opportunities  
Sandro Salvatore Accogli**