WORKING GROUP AGAINST
HATE CRIMES IN HUNGARY

Strategy 2016-2019
of the Working Group Against Hate Crimes

Working Group Against Hate Crimes

In January 2012, five Hungarian NGOs established the Working Group Against Hate Crimes to join forces for a more effective approach against hate crimes. Besides the representatives of the founding organizations, individual experts also take part in the work of the working group.

Aims

The principal aim of the working group is to fight hate crimes. To achieve this, we work towards the following objectives:

1. establishing a more effective **legal and institutional framework** for state responses to hate crimes;
2. **encouraging victims** to report the incidents;
3. creating a **social environment** condemning hate crimes.

Strategic Goals 2016-2019

GOAL1: Establishing a more effective legal and institutional framework for state responses to hate crimes	
Sub-goals	**Indicators of success**
(1) Improving the quality of investigation	**External**: An investigative protocol is developed. The subject of hate crimes is thoroughly included in the basic police training. Police officers and prosecutors have knowledge of hate crimes on a local level as well. Police are sensitive to the concerns of victims of hate crimes. The number of hate crime cases correctly classified during the investigation phase shows an increase. Police are aware of bias indicators, recognize and explore them thoroughly during the investigation. Police do not skip investigative steps. **Internal:** We have our own training strategy and related training programmes for police and prosecutors. Our materials are available for the police.
(2) Improving the police communication	**External:** Police have a dedicated section on their website with information on hate crimes. The communications staff of the police is well prepared in the subject of hate crimes. The communications staff members of the police are aware of the definition of hate crimes and the related criminal law provisions. In cases where the likelihood of a hate crime emerges, the communication of police is active and professional, it does not blame the victims. Until the end of the investigation the police refrain from making statements that deny bias motivation. The communication of the police respects the victim's concerns and encourages reporting such crimes. **Internal:** An analysis of the problems is completed. We have developed a training programme for the communications staff of the police. Communication issues appear in our protocol. Our materials are available for the police.
(3) Improving indictment and judgment	**External:** A prosecutorial protocol is developed for indictment and prosecuting. The number of correctly classified cases in indictments and judgments is increasing. Indicators appear in indictments and in judgments. Judges and prosecutors act in a professional way. Judges and prosecutors are sensitive to the concerns of victims of hate crimes. The prosecutor's office and the court are actively cooperating with civil society. Conviction rate is not the primary indicator in assessing the performance of the prosecutors. **Internal:** We have a common point of view on proportionate convictions and the use of mediation in hate crime cases. We have our own training strategy and the related training programmes for prosecutors and judges.

(4) Improving data collection	**External:** The statistical concept of hate crime is created and introduced. Classification by the victim appears during data collection. Consistent handling of protected groups during data collection. Data collection includes all crimes with bias motivation. Based on information from the police, the prosecutor's office and the court, a public report is published annually. Information disaggregated by protected group is available on the public BSR website. **Internal:** We developed recommendations on reforming data collection. The material is available for the police.
(5) Improving the functioning of the police hate crime network	**External:** Fluctuation among members of the professional group decreases. Victims can directly turn to the members of the network. The members' contact information is regularly updated on the police website. The members are open towards those seeking their assistance directly from them. The coordinator of the network on the national level is competent on the subject of hate crimes and managing the network. Goals and operational rules of the network are clear and available to the public. The network has a good and regular professional relationship with the Working Group Against Hate Crimes. Members of the network take part in trainings and professional events regularly. Recruitment of network members takes into consideration their motivation and qualifications. The network members' workload is adjusted to take into consideration their tasks in the network. Members of the network train local police. **Internal:** We regularly organize and take part in meetings with the members of the network. We manage a proactive communication with the coordinator of the group. We create a professional forum together with the police in order to improve the efficiency of police networks.
(6) Improving victims' support	**External:** A guide for victims of hate crime is available electronically and in print at police stations. The police and the Victim Support Service have cooperation or service contracts with civil organizations working on hate crimes. Public funding programmes tenders consider hate crime victims specific target group. Being a victim of hate crime is consistently taken into consideration as a vulnerability during the individual assessment of victims. The opinion of victims is taken into consideration when assessing police officers' performance. Victim support staff are trained on the subject of hate crime. The Victim Support Service cooperates with civil organizations who actively deal with hate crimes. **Internal:** We are communicating proactively with state victim support services. Work connections are made with other organizations that are dealing with victims.

GOAL 2. Encouraging victims to report the incidents

Sub-goals	Indicators of success
(1) Increasing public confidence in authorities	**External:** The number of reported hate crimes increases. Police make more positive public statements in hate crime cases. **Internal:** Articles on successful cases and cooperation with the authorities are published on the website of the Working Group. We issue press releases on successful cases and positive developments.
(2) Increasing victims' knowledge	**External:** The number of participants at trainings and events from victim groups increases. Victim groups are more aware of their rights (FRA research). The number of news items on hate crimes appearing in the media increases. **Internal:** The number of visitors to our website increases. The number of relevant and easily available materials for victims on our website increases. The number of requests from victims to the Working Group and its member organizations increases. The number of protected groups covered by the Working Group increases.
(3) Increasing victims' courage	**External:** The number of reported hate crimes increases. The number of hate crime related news items in the media increases. **Internal:** Stories of cases with a positive outcome for the victim appear on our website. The research of the Working Group covers underreporting. The number of requests from victims to the Working Group and its member organizations increases.
(4) Improving legal assistance for victims	**External:** The number of victims claiming legal defence increases. **Internal:** The number of cases that are being dealt with by member organizations increases. Information on legal defence of victims is highlighted on our website.

GOAL 3. Creating a social environment condemning hate crimes

Sub-goals	Indicators of success
(1) Making the concept of hate crimes clear	**External:** The number and availability of media materials explaining the concept of hate crimes increases. The concepts of hate crime and incitement of hatred are well differentiated in public discourse. **Internal:** We put in place sensitizing programmes for media workers. The number and availability of our materials explaining hate crimes increases. The number of partner organizations increases.

| (2) Exploring social attitudes towards hate crimes | **External:** Detailed knowledge on the social interpretation of hate crimes, knowledge of and support for hate crime of laws. |
| | **Internal:** We have a detailed research plan. Such research appears in project proposals of the Working Group or member organizations. |

Sub-goals	Indicators of success
(1) Clarifying operational frames	**Internal:** We have accepted our bye-law.
(2) Making results measurable	**Internal:** We have an up-to-date database on hate crimes in the media. We have an up-to-date database on known hate crime cases. We annually update information on the work of authorities.
(3) Proportionate distribution of tasks	**Internal:** There is no member in the group that is overburdened. There are no members quitting unexpectedly. Tasks are completed on time. There is someone in charge of each task. Tasks can easily be followed-up (list of tasks).
(4) Monitoring the goals achieved	**Internal:** Reviewing the fulfilment of strategic goals annually. We have an annual operational plan. The operational plan is reviewed every three months. There is a staff member ("whacker") in charge of monitoring the completion of tasks. The list of tasks contains all the tasks and is updated regularly.
(5) Better communication of the achievements of the Working Group	**External:** News on the work of the Working Group appear more frequently in the media.
	Internal: There is an increase in the number of news items on our website about the work of the Working Group and the hate crime related work of member organizations. The number of visitors to our website increases. Newsletters are sent out every three months. The number of subscribers increases.