

6 May 2014

#NoHateEP2014

Reporting hate speech in the #EP2014 campaign

In March, *ILGA-Europe** and *ENAR** launched an **Appeal for an election campaign free from discrimination and intolerance**, urging European parties† to condemn discriminatory or intolerant remarks during the European Parliament election campaign.

An online form was launched, enabling the public to report discriminatory or intolerant incidents during the campaign. This report compiles submissions received so far.

1. Summary

17
reports

After 6 weeks of campaigning, we received 17 valid reports of hate speech against minorities.

Reports consisted mostly of incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination, either implicitly (6 in 10) or explicitly (4 in 10). Incidents also included attacks on the dignity of minority groups—and notably migrants, asylum-seekers and ethnic minorities. Derogatory or insulting language was also noted in several cases (4 in 10).

A large number of reports (3 in 10) originated from the United Kingdom; however, language self-selection and the collection methodology means this may not be representative of the genuine occurrence of hate speech across the campaign in the EU.

Finally, reports have mostly come from the political margins, with most coming from candidates with no European party affiliation (6 in 10), or from European parties from the radical right (2 in 10).

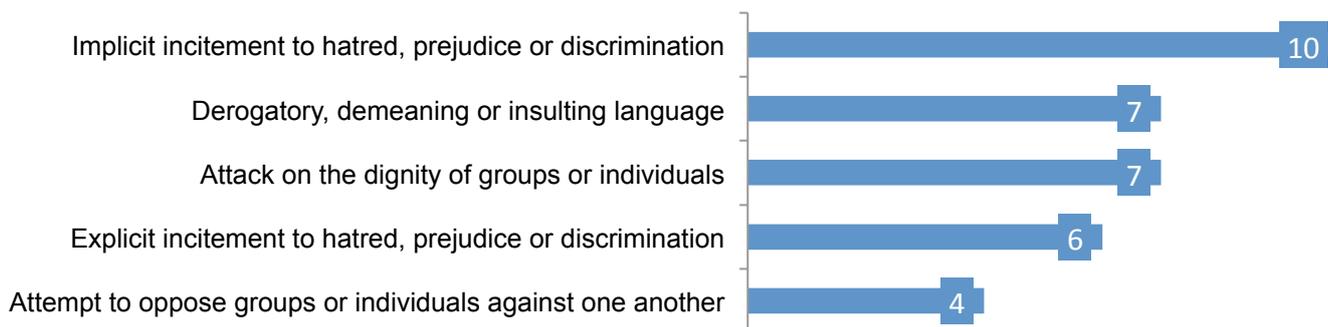
We will continue monitoring incidences of hate speech in the context of the campaign, and publish further updates, including possible new reactions by political parties.

* **ILGA-Europe** is the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association, an international non-governmental umbrella organisation working towards equality and human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & intersex (LGBTI) people at the European level.

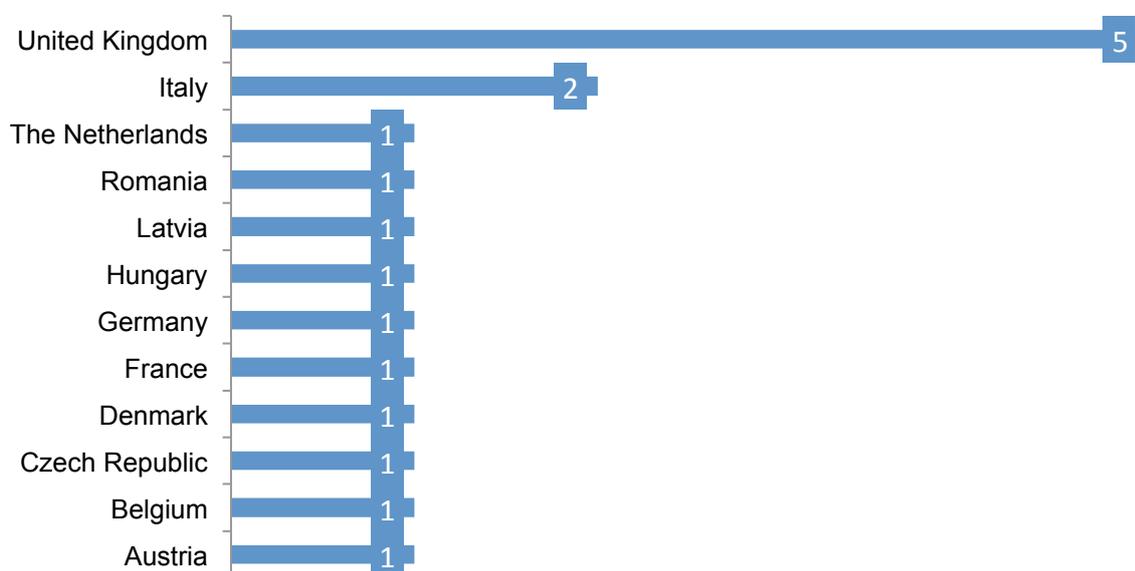
The European Network Against Racism (**ENAR**) is the only pan-European anti-racist network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racist actors in Europe.

† The Appeal was signed by the Party of European Socialists (PES), the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE), the European Green Party, and the Party of the European Left. The European People's Party (EPP) expressed support for the principles contained in the Appeal.

Incidents by type



Incidents by country



Incidents by party



How to read these reports:

| Date | Country | Name of the European political party |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| Appeal signatory | | <i>Did the European party sign the #NoHateEP2014 Appeal?</i> |
| National party | | <i>Name of the national party</i> |
| Incident | | <i>Type of incident (e.g. incitement to hatred, insults...)</i> |
| Description | | <i>A factual description of the incident</i> |
| Source | | <i>Name of the source, with a link when available online</i> |
| Reactions | | <i>Any reaction issued at the national or European level</i> |

2. Detailed reports

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|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 18 February | Austria | European Alliance for Freedom |
| Appeal signatory | No | |
| National party | Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ) | |
| Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language | |
| Description | Current MEP and FPÖ list leader Andreas Mölzer stated that the European Union was about to become ‘a conglomerate of Negroes, an absolute chaos’. He further stated that ‘it’s how it is, everyone, the Portuguese, Estonians, Swedes, Sicilians... are making fun of us, the Germans and Austrians. We are the only ones that start working at 9:00, and not only at 11:00’. He went on to compare the EU to the Third Reich. | |
| Source | <i>Süddeutsche Zeitung</i> ¹ | |
| Reactions | Ample public condemnation. On 8 April, Mr Mölzer pulled out of the election. | |
| 19 March | Netherlands | European Alliance for Freedom |
| Appeal signatory | No | |
| National party | Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) | |
| Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination | |
| Description | On local election night, party leader Geert Wilders addressed his supporters at the results evening for the PVV. He asked the audience whether they wanted ‘more or less Moroccans in The Hague and the Netherlands’. To this the audience chanted ‘Less, less, less!’ Wilders replied he would take care of it. | |
| Source | Widely reported ² | |
| Reactions | Ample public condemnation | |

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|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 25 March | Hungary | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Új Magyarország Párt (ÚMP) |
| | Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | A poster was disseminated with the slogan ‘Hungarian, works, heterosexual. Doomed for extinction? No.’, featuring a panda from the logo of environment NGO WWF. |
| | Source | Online poster and press reports ³ |
| | Reactions | The poster was criticised publicly. In response, ÚMP issued the following statement: ‘In Hungary the liberal media stigmatises those who stand up for the large silent majority. Currently in Hungary those who are Hungarians, work and are heterosexual suffer a disadvantage. ÚMP speaks out against this!’ |
| 1 April | United Kingdom | Alliance of European National Movements |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | British National Party (BNP) |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language |
| | Description | Current MEP and candidate Nick Griffin published a tweet in which he linked migration to an inner London area with ‘ancestors’ leaving Africa: ‘It’s obvious why our ancestors left Africa. Same reason locals have left Barking - can’t stand the neighbours’. |
| | Source | Tweet ⁴ |
| | Reactions | Political condemnations |
| 2 April | France | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Force Vie (list) |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language Attempt to oppose groups or individuals against one another |
| | Description | Former MP and list leader Christine Boutin described homosexuality as an ‘abomination’. |
| | Source | <i>Le Nouvel Observateur</i> ⁵ |
| | Reactions | Following stern political reactions, including from centre-right UMP leaders, Christine Boutin admitted it had been ‘clumsy’ but didn’t apologise. The national NGO ‘Inter-LGBT’ registered a formal complaint to the police, as did 3,900 French citizens individually ⁶ . |

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|-----------------|------------------|---|
| 14 April | Latvia | Party of European Socialists (Observer) |
| | Appeal signatory | Observer status within a signatory party (PES) |
| | National party | Alternative |
| | Incident | Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | In an interview with Russian newspaper <i>Izvestia</i> , current MEP and list leader Alexander Mirsky supported a Latvian initiative to ban informing minors about LGBTI issues. He stated that ‘minors under 14 should be banned from any discussion on sexuality and to ban all public demonstration propagating unhealthy sexuality. Now homosexuals are going to the streets and what will be next, paedophiles?’ |
| | Source | <i>Izvestia</i> ⁷ |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 17 April | Romania | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Independent candidate |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals |
| | Description | Iulian Capsali, a Romanian Orthodox priest standing as an independent candidate, stated that the ‘homosexual ideology’ led to the destruction of the family. He said he would oppose ‘homosexual culture’, which he said was synonymous with death and cultural demise. |
| | Source | <i>EurActiv</i> ⁸ |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 20 April | Italy | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Fratelli d’Italia (Fdl) |
| | Incident | Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language Attempt to oppose groups or individuals against one another |
| | Description | Current MEP and candidate Magdi Cristiano Allam issued a leaflet calling to ‘stop mosques’, ‘Islamic terrorism’, and the ‘Islamic invasion’ of Italy. |
| | Source | Election leaflet ⁹ |
| | Reactions | N/A |

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 20 April | Italy | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Fratelli d'Italia (Fdl) |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | Current MEP and candidate Magdi Cristiano Allam stated that migrants to Italy carried the Ebola virus. He published a cartoon portraying a migrant girl named 'Ebola' in an immigration queue. |
| | Source | Facebook post ¹⁰ |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 21 April | Belgium | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Parti Populaire Belge |
| | Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | In an electoral leaflet, the Parti Populaire has pledged that it would expel 'foreigners who want to impose Sharia law in Belgium', and would 'ban the headscarf in companies, public administration and schools'. |
| | Source | Leaflet handed out on the street |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 21 April | United Kingdom | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | UK Independence Party (UKIP) |
| | Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Attempt to oppose groups or individuals against one another |
| | Description | UKIP launched a new national billboard poster campaign, suggesting that non-British workers seek to put British workers out of jobs. |
| | Source | <i>Billboards</i> ¹¹ |
| | Reactions | Political condemnations |

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|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 22 April | Czech Republic | European People's Party |
| | Appeal signatory | Appeal supporter |
| | National party | Křesťanská a demokratická unie (KDU-ČSL) |
| | Incident | Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language |
| | Description | The party's manifesto stated: 'We don't want Europe full of inadaptable immigrants who burn cars on the city outskirts, deal drugs and bring radical Islamism with them'. |
| | Source | <i>EUobserver</i> ¹² |
| | Reactions | Following criticism, the party explained this had been a 'working version', and published an updated programme without this sentence. |
| 24 April | Germany | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (NPD) |
| | Incident | Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | The far-right party posters in Berlin, stating 'Stop with gay and lesbian propaganda!' |
| | Source | Photo submission |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 24 April | United Kingdom | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | UK Independence Party (UKIP) |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Explicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | UKIP candidate Andre Lampitt posted a series of racist and Islamophobic tweets calling Ed Miliband 'a Pole', and calling for Africans to be left alone to kill themselves. He added that 'Most Nigerians are generally bad people'. |
| | Source | <i>The Guardian</i> ¹³ |
| | Reactions | UKIP published a strong statement against Mr Lampitt's 'repellent views', and suspended his party membership. |

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|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 25 April | United Kingdom | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | UK Independence Party (UKIP) |
| | Incident | Attack on the dignity of groups or individuals Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination |
| | Description | UKIP MEP and leader Nigel Farage said in an interview to <i>The Guardian</i> that Romanians and Bulgarians had a culture of criminality. When asked whether British people should be wary of Romanian families moving into their street, he said ‘Well, of course, yeah.’ |
| | Source | <i>The Guardian</i> ¹⁴ |
| | Reactions | N/A |
| 25 April | Denmark | Movement for a Europe of Liberties and Democracy |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | Dansk Folkeparti |
| | Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language Attempt to oppose groups or individuals against one another |
| | Description | In a Facebook post, current MEP and candidate Morten Messerschmidt criticised the European Commission’s support of ILGA-Europe, a European NGO working on sexual orientation and gender identity. He titled his post ‘EU Abuse Day 42: Sexual blackmailing of EU taxpayers’, and suggested: ‘How about we all leave one another’s genitals alone?’ |
| | Source | Facebook post ¹⁵ |
| | Reactions | Mr Messerschmidt was criticised by other parties. |
| 29 April | United Kingdom | <i>(No European party affiliation)</i> |
| | Appeal signatory | No |
| | National party | UK Independence Party (UKIP) |
| | Incident | Implicit incitement to hatred, prejudice or discrimination Derogatory, demeaning or insulting language |
| | Description | Responding to black comedian Lenny Henry, who commented that black and ethnic minorities were poorly represented on British television, local council candidate William Henwood tweeted: ‘He should emigrate to a black country. He does not have to live with whites’. |
| | Source | <i>Express & Star</i> ¹⁶ |
| | Reactions | The tweet was widely condemned. UKIP MEP candidate Bill Etheridge called Mr Henwood’s comment ‘vile and repulsive’, and Mr Henwood resigned from UKIP. |

3. Sources

The information contained in this report was verified, and is correct to the best of our knowledge as of the publication date. We welcome any additional information which might be found missing.

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- ¹ <http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/1579296/Rassistische-Aussage-SZMagazin-beharrt-auf-MolzerZitat>
 - ² <http://www.nu.nl/geert-wilders/3730669/geert-wilders-belooft-minder-marokkanen-in-haag.html>
 - ³ http://os.mti.hu/hirek/96146/az_uj_magyarorszag_part_kozlemenye
 - ⁴ <http://twitter.com/nickgriffinmep/status/450896757485219840>
 - ⁵ <http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/politique/20140402.OBS2229/christine-boutin-l-homosexualite-est-une-abomination.html>
 - ⁶ <http://tetu.yagg.com/2014/05/02/un-torrent-de-plaintes-contre-christine-boutin/>
 - ⁷ <http://izvestia.ru/news/569204>
 - ⁸ <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-elections-2014/romanian-orthodox-mep-candidate-campaigns-anti-gay-ticket-301610>
 - ⁹ <http://www.ioamolitalia.it/public/documenti/allam8.jpg>
 - ¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/MagdiCristianoAllam/photos/pb.388981637826431.-2207520000.1398694580./685303594860899>
 - ¹¹ http://www.ukip.org/ukip_national_billboard_campaign
 - ¹² <http://euobserver.com/eu-elections/123884>
 - ¹³ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/apr/24/ukip-member-broadcast-suspended-racist-tweets>
 - ¹⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/apr/25/nigel-farage-ukip-european-parliament-elections>
 - ¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/MortenMesserschmidt/posts/690223104378602>
 - ¹⁶ <http://www.expressandstar.com/news/2014/04/29/ukip-man-hits-out-at-vile-tweet-on-lenny-henry/>