



**CRIME IS CRIME.
EVEN ONLINE.**

ONLINE HATE SPEECH
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



**Victim Support
Europe**



With Financial support from
the Justice Programme
of the European Union

#CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline

Awareness Campaign
3 September 2019 - 5 November 2019

Campaign Guide

www.crimeiscrime.eu

Preventing and dealing with cyber hate victimisation

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Why this campaign?

Online hate speech is a growing problem. The severity and viciousness of online hate speech has evolved into something much more sinister in recent years. Frequently, the targets of these comments are people of colour, women, LGBT+ community and religious minorities, who have spoken out about online harassment and hateful attacks for as long as the social media platforms have existed, calling for tech companies and governments to take action to curb them.

One of the big things that changes online is that it allows people to see others use hateful words, slurs and ideas, and those things become normal. Norms are powerful because they influence people's behaviors. If you see a stream of slurs, that makes you feel like things are more acceptable.

With 'Crime Is Crime. Even Online.' campaign, we aim to:

- ✓ Inform netizens of their rights when subjects of online hate, and available support services in the case of victimisation.
- ✓ Resources produced for the online campaign will be used as part of a workshop, conducted by VSE to our member organisations, in order to train victim support professionals on how to respond to, and support, victims of online hate speech.

Key messages

Know laws against hate speech and your rights online	Know how to recognise online hate speech	Know how to act against online hate speech	Know where to get support in case of online victimisation
<p>There are laws (regional, community, federal, European and international) to protect you from online verbal abuse and you have a right to get it recorded as a hate crime by the police.</p>	<p>There is a fine line between what can and cannot be considered to be hate speech. While offensive statements or content might be easy to recognize, determining whether it can be considered to be hate speech might be difficult. Therefore, it is important to carefully distinguish hate speech from other insulting, unpopular or extreme views and expressions.</p>	<p>While there is no universal set of steps that will work for everyone, there is a complex of actions that may help if you have been a victim of online hate speech.</p>	<p>Everyone in the EU has a right to free victim support services. Every member state has to establish the national victim support service. Every EU citizen has to know about the existence of victim support in their respective state.</p>

How to get involved?

Spread the word

Share information about the campaign with your network and encourage others to get involved using the hashtags **#CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline**. You can tag us in Facebook (@Victim Support Europe), in Twitter (@VictimSupportEU) and in YouTube (@Victim Support Europe). You can find the campaign materials (incl. videos, links, infographics, etc.) online on the campaign's website: **www.crimeiscrime.eu**

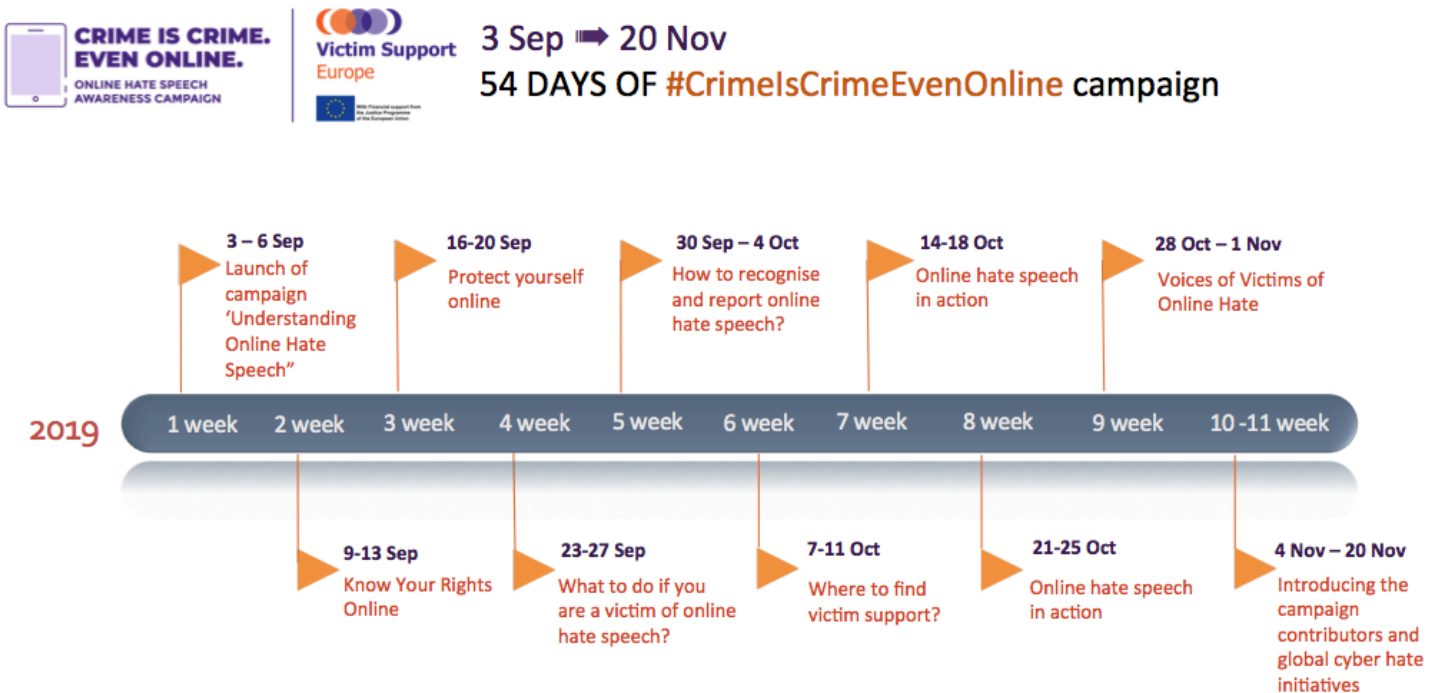
Examples of posts

- ✓ As the wildfire of online hate speech spreads, fighting it must be a job for everybody. Say no to online hate. Join #CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline campaign!
- ✓ Online hate speech has real-world consequences. Support the #CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline campaign today to make victims' rights online a reality!
- ✓ The internet is not a lawless space where racist abuse and illegal posts can be allowed to flourish. Stand up against cyber hate speech. Support the #CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline campaign!
- ✓ We can combat online hate speech by making it more visible. This means encouraging victims and witnesses to report cyber hate speech, while increasing their confidence in the ability of victim support services to deal with this type of crimes effectively. Let's shine a spotlight on online hate! #CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline
- ✓ Addressing hate speech does not mean limiting or prohibiting freedom of speech. It means keeping hate speech from escalating into something more dangerous, particularly incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence, which is prohibited under international law.
#CrimeIsCrime #EvenOnline

The campaign in practice

The **#CrimelsCrime #EvenOnline** campaign will last 54 days from 3 September to 20th November with the offline presentation of the campaign at the VSE Annual Autumn Conference 2019 in Brussels.

Each of the 10 weeks of the campaign will cover a specific aspect of online hate speech: starting from explaining the legal context and relative European legislation regarding online hate speech, then moving onto measures of protection, next what is being done by social media platforms, and finishing with the realities on the frontline.



Who is conducting the campaign?

Victim Support Europe (VSE), the leading European umbrella organisation advocating on behalf of all victims of crime, has developed the **#CrimelsCrime #EvenOnline** campaign and this guide. We have partnered with civil society organisations, public authorities, businesses, artists and experts in the field of online hate speech to spread the word about the campaign and share experiences of cyber hate from different groups in society.



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CONTRIBUTORS



Contact details

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