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How can countries around the world use the power of education to counter hate speech? How to mitigate the impact of dangerous discourses in the form of xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and other types of intolerance while upholding freedom of expression? Why prioritize media and information literacy in education systems and how to introduce new forms of citizenship in the digital sphere?

On 18 June 2019, the [United Nations Secretary-General launched the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#), to enhance the United Nations' response to the global phenomenon of hate speech. Capitalizing on the role of education, the United Nations Secretary-General invited UNESCO and the United Nations Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) to organize a [Global Education Ministers Conference on "Addressing Hate Speech through Education"](#), which took place, virtually, on 26 October 2021 preceded by a global multistakeholder forum.

As a direct follow up to these efforts, UNESCO and OSAPG have jointly developed a [policy guide on "Addressing hate speech through education"](#). The policy guide is the first tool for policymakers and key education stakeholders in ensuring that hate speech, online and offline, is effectively addressed and countered *in and through* education.

The Global launch event is organized by UNESCO and OSAPG in partnership with the Ministry of Public Education of Costa Rica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Costa Rica and the University for Peace.

Watch the [webcast](#) of the event

**Launch event: “Addressing hate speech through education”**

27 March 2023, University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica

*MC: Karel Fracapane, Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, UNESCO*

<p><b>09:00 – 09:20 (CST)</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rodrigo Chaves</b>, President of Costa Rica (video message)</li><li>• <b>Antonio Guterres</b>, United Nations Secretary-General (video message)</li><li>• <b>Audrey Azoulay</b>, Director-General of UNESCO (video message)</li></ul>
<p><b>09:20 – 09:50</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1: Countering hate speech as a means for achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anna Katherina Müller Castro</b>, Minister of Public Education of Costa Rica</li><li>• <b>Alice Wairimu Nderitu</b>, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide</li><li>• <b>Allegra Maria del Pilar Baiocchi</b>, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica</li></ul>
<p><b>09:50 – 09:55</b></p>	<p><b>Video on Hate Speech 1</b></p>
<p><b>09:55 – 10:55</b></p>	<p><b>Session 2: How to harness the power of education to counter hate speech?</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the guide for policymakers on “Addressing Hate Speech Through Education”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stefania Giannini</b>, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education</li></ul> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anna Katherina Müller Castro</b>, Minister of Public Education of Costa Rica</li></ul> <p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cynthia Miller-Idriss</b>, Professor, American University, United States of America (<i>online</i>)</li><li>• <b>Francisco Rojas Aravena</b>, Rector of the University for Peace, Costa Rica</li><li>• <b>Nighat Dad</b>, Executive Director, Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan (<i>online</i>)</li><li>• <b>Atif Rizvi</b>, Executive Director, Conflict and Education Learning Laboratory (CELL), the Netherlands</li><li>• <b>Clara Ramirez-Barat</b>, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (Brazil, United States of America)</li><li>• <b>Alexandra Salgado</b>, Human Rights Activist (Nicaragua)</li></ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Cecilia Barbieri</b>, Chief, Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, UNESCO</p>

10:55 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 3: Ministerial panel discussion: Practices, challenges and recommendations to counter hate speech by transforming education. Towards a global commitment.</b></p> <p><b>Invited:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• Belize</li> <li>• Chile</li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• France</li> <li>• Kenya</li> <li>• The Republic of Korea</li> <li>• Morocco</li> <li>• Namibia</li> <li>• The Netherlands</li> <li>• Portugal</li> <li>• Spain</li> </ul> <p><i>With interventions from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maria Antonia Calvo Puerta</b>, Ambassador European Union</li> <li>• <b>Roberto Suárez</b>, Executive Secretary of Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Integration System (CECC/SICA)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Alexander Leicht</b>, Director, San Jose Office, UNESCO</p>
12:00 – 12:05	Video on Hate Speech 2
12:05 – 12:15	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stefania Giannini</b>, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education</li> <li>• <b>Alice Wairimu Nderitu</b>, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide</li> </ul>