

## PRESS RELEASE

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### COUNTER HATE project completes research to improve assistance for victims of hate crimes

Hate crimes have become a global concern, posing significant social, political, and legal challenges. The act of violent behavior motivated by bias against a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability is considered a severe expression of discrimination.

The **COUNTER HATE** project, aimed at **improving the assistance of victims of hate crimes through a victim-centered and intersectional approach**, has completed its research in 6 European countries - Spain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, and Lithuania - aiming to map and evaluate national legislation and policies regarding hate crimes. The results of the research also provide valuable insights into the experiences of victims and key professionals, as well as the viewpoints of civil organisations.

The research included a mapping of the national legal and political frameworks regarding hate crimes, as well as assistance to victims. Additionally, qualitative and quantitative research was conducted, including in-depth interviews and a survey, to analyse the experiences and opinions of victims and key professionals.

The results of the research show that, although legal and political mechanisms have been deployed in recent times to combat violence and discrimination based on prejudice, hate crimes remain a significant problem. One of the main challenges to be addressed is the high percentage of victims who decide not to report, largely due to mistrust in the police and judicial authorities. The interviewees agree on the need to adopt an intersectional perspective, given that multiple vulnerability factors interact and intertwine, producing complex situations, biographies and needs. However, the need to transcend intersectionality as a theoretical concept is stressed in order to transform it into concrete policies and measures. Finally, effective mechanisms to restore the victim and to give the opportunity for reparation to perpetrators should be deployed.

The compilation of national reports is available **HERE:**

<https://zenodo.org/record/7802736#.ZEDmDC8RqpY>



For more information on COUNTER HATE and its research results, please visit the project's website <https://www.udg.edu/ca/projectes/counter-hate/the-project> or contact the general coordinator of the project, Dr. Jose Antonio Langarita [josan.langarita@udg.edu]

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