Guidebook of good practices in combating hate crimes and hate speech
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The Brown Book
– hate crime monitoring

EU Member State: Poland

About: The Brown Book is a documentation of monitoring of crimes committed by neo-fascists and the extreme right, as well as racist and xenophobic incidents and acts of discrimination in Poland. It has been run by the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association continuously since 1996. The information contained in the Brown Book comes from correspondents of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association and representatives of minority organizations – the Association’s partners, as well as from online publications, press articles, radio and television broadcasts, books, national reports and foreign NGOs dealing with prejudice and discrimination. The Brown Book is the most comprehensive and reliable compilation of data on xenophobic violence (‘hate crime’) and verbal aggression in Poland, which is used by media and international organizations. It was published in subsequent issues of the NEVER AGAIN magazine and in a book form. All editions (latest as well) are available also on Never Again’s website.

Implemented by: Never Again Association

Scope: national

Topics: hate crime, hate speech, discrimination

Aim: The mission of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association is to promote multicultural understanding and to contribute to the development of a democratic civil society in Poland and in the broader region of Central and Eastern Europe. ‘NEVER AGAIN’ is particularly concerned with the problem of education against racial and ethnic prejudices among the young. The major objectives of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association include:

• breaking the silence and raising awareness of the problem of racism and xenophobia;
• building a broad and inclusive movement against racism and discrimination, for respect, inclusivity and diversity;
• eliminating or marginalizing racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic tendencies in various spheres of life.

Activities & methods: Besides the Never Again magazine published continuously since 1994 ‘NEVER AGAIN’ closely monitors racism and discrimination on the ground. Through its national network of voluntary correspondents and regular grassroots contacts with various minority communities, ‘NEVER AGAIN’ has built the most extensive register of racist incidents and other xenophobic crimes committed in Poland, the ‘Brown Book’.

‘NEVER AGAIN’ has provided expertise to international institutions as well as consulted and influenced legislation and policy documents on issues of racism and xenophobia on national level. Among others, it successfully campaigned for a ban on racist and neo-Nazi activities to be included in Poland’s Constitution.

‘NEVER AGAIN’ has launched the ‘Delete Racism’ project to combat racism and antisemitism on the Internet. In cooperation with Allegro (the biggest online e-commerce platform in East-Central Europe) organization removes auctions of newly manufactured items with racist, fascist and anti-Semitic content.

It has also conducted successful high-profile educational campaigns in the field of popular culture, ‘Music Against Racism’ and ‘Let’s Kick Racism out of the Stadiums’. It implemented the UEFA EURO 2012 ‘Respect Diversity’ programme: major educational and awareness-raising activities that took place before and during the European Football Championships in Poland and Ukraine. Moreover, ‘NEVER AGAIN’ has participated in important initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust and to combat Holocaust denial.

Web: http://www.nigdywiecej.org/en/

Partnership: ‘NEVER AGAIN’ has cooperated with international organizations, including the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It has actively participated in international networks, including Football against Racism in Europe (FARE), UNITED for Intercultural Action, the International Network against Cyber Hate (INACH), Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly (HCa), and the Anti-Fascist Network for Research and Education (Antifanet).
Thank you!

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