

Just & Safer Cities for All

Project

Prevention and fight against
acts of discriminatory violence
throughout Europe



Acts of discriminatory violence, including hate-speech, have increased in a worrying way over the last few years in Europe. This phenomenon, which runs counter to the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Human Rights, represents a real threat to democracy.

Although racist, xenophobic and homophobic behaviours are officially criminal in all EU member states, they continue to happen, threatening social cohesion and citizens' safety. Thus, in addition to legal and penal responses, it seems that preventive measures must be strengthened in order to combat this problem.

Due to their proximity to citizens, local authorities can play a particularly important role in terms of prevention and awareness-raising and can therefore contribute to creating a climate where discrimination, hate-speech and violence are not acceptable.

Thus, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus, by its english acronym) has put into place the "Just & Safer Cities for All" project, in partnership with eight European organisations, in order to raise awareness among local authorities about preventing and fighting against acts of discriminatory violence and propose responses for them to implement at the local level.

With this objective in mind, a European call for practices has been launched in order to gather existing innovative initiatives on this topic at the local level. Fifty practices will be selected from this call to be published in a Manual of Best Practices. This manual will be disseminated across Europe in order to promote local actions and encourage local authorities to act.

Respond to the call to make your action known and contribute to fighting against acts of discriminatory violence!

What types of practices are we looking for?

We are looking for practices that have a positive impact at the local level and that correspond to at least one of the following categories:

- > **Prevention**: practices aimed at preventing violence motivated by discrimination, prejudices and intolerance against vulnerable peoples.
- > **Raising awareness**: practices aiming to educate and change the attitudes and mentalities of citizens and local authorities, with the overarching objective of promoting multiculturalism and integration in local communities to fight acts of discriminatory violence
- > **Repression/penalties**: measures aimed at discouraging violent acts of discrimination, including educational penalties, community work, communal administrative penalties, and legal measures at the local level.

The practices must be dedicated to preventing and fighting against violence and hate-speech motivated by:

- > **Racism and xenophobia**
- > **Homophobia**
- > **Sexism**
- > **Age, health condition, disabilities**
- > **Socio-economic background**
- > **All forms of acts of discriminatory violence**

Who can respond to this call?

The following European organisations can submit practices:

- > Local authorities
- > Other levels of local government (county, region, urban areas...)
- > Civil society organisations and media companies (newspapers, etc.)
- > Private organisations working with local authorities
- > National authorities working in coordination with local stakeholders

