

## Invitation to free training session: Combatting Online Hate Speech

### A training workshop for persons working with refugees and immigrants.

Hosted with the generous support of Solidarity with Refugees

**Date:** Tuesday 12th December, 17.15 (for 17.30 start) - 20.00.

**Venue:** central London (at Amnesty International, London EC2A)

**Target audience:** persons working with immigrants and refugees to support them or advise them; in charities, the public sector or in an educational context.

**Free attendance (please RSVP).** Refreshments will be provided.

**You are invited to attend a twilight training session on techniques to combat online hate speech. This is being provided by the EU-funded Positive Messengers project in collaboration with Hope Not Hate and with the support of Solidarity With Refugees.**

#### Introduction:

The growth of on line hate speech and hate crime in recent years is something which concerns us all. Much of this hate speech is directed at immigrants and refugees. It undermines the crucial work of organisations to help them integrate in society, complicates political and public discourse and can make individuals - not only immigrants and refugees but those who support them - feel unsafe and unwelcome.

Positive Messengers is a European project with partners in 7 European countries. It aims to confront the issue of hate speech - online hate speech in particular - targeted against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. In the UK we are working with partners including the British Council, Goldsmiths, University of London, the Mayor of London's office, Solidarity With Refugees and Hope Not Hate to develop a positive response to online hate.

#### This 2.5 hour session will include:

- An introduction to Positive Messengers and partners from around Europe
- An interactive workshop led by Arun Devasia of Hope Not Hate, based on HNH's successful *Difficult Conversations* model of developing techniques for engaging with hateful discourse:
  - People who have formed irrational views based on emotive factors are unlikely to shift their thinking when presented with rational arguments. Instead, *Difficult Conversations* provides you with techniques for engaging with individuals using a combination of empathetic listening and Socratic questioning, proven to be "particularly effective in persuading people to change their thinking."
  - For an article on the principles behind Arun's training, click here: <http://charity.hopenothate.org.uk/blog/the-secret-to-having-difficult-conversations-5220>
- Brainstorming for post-conference activities - thinking about how to apply these skills to your context
- Feedback, summing up and looking towards a positive social media campaign in June 2018 (to coincide with Refugee Week)

**RSVP: if you would like to attend this training please book your place by emailing [positivemessengers@languagescompany.com](mailto:positivemessengers@languagescompany.com) who are coordinating the bookings on behalf of the UK partners.**

We really hope you will be interested and look forward to meeting you soon!