

## Invitation to a free interactive training session for teachers and teacher educators Combatting Online Hate Speech

**Date:** Choose one of either Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January or Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 17.00 – 19.30

**Venue:** central London (at the British Council, London SW1A)

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

**Outcomes for participants:**

- Practical ideas for tackling issues of online hate speech with your primary or secondary students
- An understanding of the legal framework and e-safety issues
- Opportunities for developing your school's international dimension/ links with schools abroad
- Possible involvement in a social media campaign being prepared for Summer 2018

The growth of online hate speech and hate crime in recent years is something which concerns teachers and parents alike. Much of this hate speech is directed at immigrants and refugees.

- It undermines a core mission of education which is to open children to the world and the appreciation of other people and to celebrate the world's diversity of cultures.
- It threatens the safety of our young people on the internet, as many of them may be exposed to hatred (even in songs and games) and in some cases themselves be the targets of online hate.

Many of us are uncertain on how best to combat this new and worrying phenomenon. This is why we are working with organisations across Europe both to understand Hate Speech and to find ways to develop counter narratives, in a Project called **Positive Messengers**, which is supported by the European Union

In the UK we have joined with organisations including the British Council, Goldsmiths, University of London and the Mayor of London's Office to develop a positive response to Hate. We do not pretend to have all of the answers, but by working with you and with your students we believe that together we will find solutions.

**You are invited to a free interactive training seminar on combatting online hate speech in school.**

**The outline programme will include:**

- Introduction to online hate speech - the current situation in England.
- A refugee's story - how this could be relevant in the classroom.
- Interactive session: Developing materials for the classroom
  - What is Hate Speech?
  - Myths, truth and lies
  - Keeping safe online
  - Developing positive messages
- An overview of available materials, links to e-safety and Citizenship, relevance for key curricular areas such as English, Modern Languages, Drama, Art and opportunities for linking with schools abroad to share experiences and understanding.
- First thoughts about a positive social media campaign in June 2018 to coincide with Refugee Week.

The meeting will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to discuss informally.

Participants will go away with information and resources and also practical ideas to try out with appropriate classes. We will then hold a follow up meeting in March for those who can attend, to sum up progress, review materials and plan a media campaign.

**If you would like to attend this free event please register directly by using [EVENTBRITE](#)**

**Or you can contact [philip.harding.esch@languagescompany.com](mailto:philip.harding.esch@languagescompany.com) indicating which of the January dates you would like to attend.**

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