



hate speech =

when you knowingly and deliberately use words and images as weapons like a punch to the face.

when people are attacked, devalued or when hate or violence is called for against them, that's what we call hate speech.

I support gay marriage but I wouldn't want it on TV because my kids would see it, and I don't want them to be gay or something 🙄

Context : A casual text message

Why is this hate speech ? Firstly, because they wouldn't want their children to be gay. Which is clearly homophobic. But there's also the idea that people can be « contaminated », that « if you see it, you can become it ». That let us see the homosexuality as a disease. Let's deconstruct it: Homosexuality is not a choice nor a disease. It is something that you at born with and seeing LGBTQI* people on mediawon't make you queer. The only thing it can do is helping you feel seen and understood.

Just as diverse as the LGBTQI* community is, hate speech directed against it can take different concrete forms.

For example, homophobia is the dislike of or prejudice against homosexuals and homosexuality while glesbophobia is the dislike and prejudice against lesbians in particular & transphobia hatred against transgender individuals.



<http://rainbowhouse.be/en/projet/brave-new-you/>



[bny_young.queer.here](https://www.instagram.com/bny_young.queer.here)



[bravenewyoubrussels](https://www.facebook.com/bravenewyoubrussels)



we are

A GROUP OF YOUNG QUEERS THAT LIVE IN BELGIUM, BRUSSEL

we want

TO COMBAT THE HATE, VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION OUR COMMUNITY FACES

how?

INFORM AND EDUCATE ON LGBTQI* IDENTITIES, ORIENTATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS

bye bye hate speech

Challenging hate speech against LGBTQI*: a counter-narrative for young people



RAINBOW HOUSE



YOUTH FOR EXCHANGE AND UNDERSTANDING

-- in joyful memory of vlada --



LGBTQI* : umbrella term in which the letters stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, **transgender**, **questioning/queer** and **intersex people**. The asterisk (*) covers all other non-heteronormative gender expressions, identities and orientations.

LGBTQI+

The letters cover very different aspects of sex, gender and orientation, while the L, G, and B refer to **sexual/romantic orientation**, the T refers to **gender identity**. The Q refers to **all topics related to sexuality, expressions and identity**, but it also represents a critical view of existing cisheteronormative norms. And finally, I refers to the **reproductive and physical anatomy**.

On the internet, in the workplace, on the bus and in the neighbourhood.

LGBTQI* people are victims of hate speech much more frequently than the rest of the population. Too many worry about being the victim of crime and feel at risk.

Both the experience and fear of homophobic hate crimes and incidents have a dramatic impact on the quality of life of millions of LGBTQI* people.

Many take steps to avoid victimisation including hiding their identity and changing their behaviour.

Young LGBTQI+ people and ethnic minority LGBTQI* individuals feel even more at risk.

consequences of hate speech

The effects of hate speech are serious:

- **psychological suffering: constant fear & feeling at risk**
- **physical suffering: when hate speech turns into hate crime + mental health can impact**
- **denigration of identity: LGBTQI+ may feel the need to invisibilize their "queerness" to avoid hate speech**
- **greater risk of isolation, solitude, homelessness, addictions & suicide**
- **'dehumanization effect' : hate speech dehumanizes the individuals it attacks and makes it easier for to justify suffering and harm caused to another human being**

5 tips to identify hate speech

Tip #1. Reflect on what you are hearing/reading. What is the apparent motivation of the attacker and what they are doing. Hate speech can take many forms and is not always subtle.

Tip #2. Identify the target of the hate speech. Being others, a group/community or even yourself, it's important to

Tip #3. Evaluate the situation, the potential danger and don't react if your safety might be at risk. Not engaging is also a form of resistance, and being aware of hate speech is already a long step.

Tip #4. If you experience or see hate speech in a public space, make yourself aware of your surroundings and call for the attention of people in the street. Try not to engage in discussion if you perceive it can escalate to violence. If possible, document the situation with your phone and report it to the authorities. If you can't record, try to take notes of what you saw, that can be useful for future investigation.

Tip #5. Hate speech isn't always coming from strangers. It can happen inside family circle or within peers. Reacting in a private space is not the same as reacting in public, often there's no safe place to go. Remember that your safety and the safety of others is the most important. When you can, talk with someone you trust, an adult, a colleague - you don't need to be alone. If you don't find anyone you trust, there are several LGBTQI* organisations that can help.

how to react to microaggressions as young queers

Dealing with microaggressions:

Microaggressions are subtle and everyday intentional or unintentional actions or comments that transmit a negative and hostile attitude towards someone or a community.

Examples of common microaggressions against LGBTQI people can go from comments such as 'That's so gay!' or using homophobic slur; to more general behaviour like assuming all LGBTQI* lives and experiences are the same.*

Three simple actions that you can take to fight it:

LISTEN AND OBSERVE

BE AN EXAMPLE

CALL OUT

WHATEVER THE WAY YOU CHOOSE TO DEAL WITH HATE SPEECH, ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO BE SAFE: IF YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE, DON'T CALL OTHERS OUT. ALWAYS PROTECT YOURSELF. THIS CAN GO FROM IGNORING TO ACTIVELY TRYING TO CORRECT OTHERS.