

FINAL EVENT REPORT

January 24th 2022

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, Parliament Chamber and Queen's Room, Ashley Building, Middle Temple Lane, London EC4Y 9BT, UK

Information on the event:

In the UK, the Europe for Citizens third international event for the “reUnite” project took place on the 24th of January 2022. The event lasted for 7 hours, commencing at 9am and ending at 4pm (GMT).

The international event took place at the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple. For the conference we used two spaces within the middle temple named Parliament Chamber and Queens Room. The event would always begin in Parliament Chambers where the conference chairs would introduce the conference and welcome the attendees. All keynote Speakers spoke in the Parliament Chambers and all attendees would view these presentations. Workshops took place in either Parliament Chambers or Queens Room, these workshops were parallel, so attendees were split in half so one side viewed presentations in Queens Room and the other half of attendees viewed presentations in Parliament Chambers. For both days there were 4 Keynote speakers and 4 workshops. The workshops took place two at a time, the first two starting lasting from 11:30-12:30 and the next two from 13:30-14:30.

The event was certified with continuous professional development (CPD). Therefore, all delegates will be receiving from the CPD Service a CPD Certificate awarding them with universal 10 points.

As per the original vision for the UK event, the focus was on hate phenomena and lessons for today focusing on xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance especially in the context of European youth. Preparatory material were sent in advance covering issues of migration, politics and policy on preventing hate and intolerance as well as information on targeted communities such as migrants and the ROMA.



TO RAISE THEIR AWARENESS OF REMEMBRANCE, COMMON HISTORY AND THE AIM OF THE EU TO PROMOTE PEACE AND EUROPEAN VALUES

**JANUARY 24TH
FROM 9AM-4PM**

**Join us for the free REUnite conference
for Europe for Citizens:
Addressing hate through Restorative Justice**



WWW.RJ4ALL.INFO/REUNITE



BUILDING BRIDGES & CONNECTING GREAT MINDS

CONFERENCE



SCAN TO REGISTER



This project is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union (2014-2020).



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR ALL
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REGISTRATION PAGE: WWW.RJ4ALLBOOKINGS.ORG

The total number of participants, per country, was as follows:

- 52 participants from Britain
- 3 participants from Cyprus
- 2 participants from Hungary
- 9 participants from Spain
- 1 participant from Bulgaria
- 2 participants from Italy
- 1 participant from New Zealand
- 4 participants from Lithuania
- 1 participant from Gambia
- 2 participants from India
- 1 participant from the USA
- 1 participant from Ukraine
- 1 participant from Kenya
- 1 participant from Germany
- 1 participant from Palestine
- 1 participant from South Africa +
- 1 participant from Mexico
- 1 participant from Turkey

Participants by gender: 28 men and 49 women = 77 people attended the conference

Description of the event

The day began with a welcome and introduction from the Restorative Justice for All Founder and Director Dr Theo Gavrielides and the Restorative Justice for All chair Councillor Nick Johnson. The first two keynote speakers addressed issues of European policy as well as hate incidents and group violence at a local level.



The first parallel workshops focused on youth and the rEUnite hate focused workshop was the last of the day and was titled **‘Europe for Citizens rEUnite project: “Hate, bias & intolerance: Steps to reunite”**. The first presentation was named **“Hate speech through hashtags: how Instagram allows discrimination content”** and was created by Predoctoral Researcher Sabina Civila from Huelva University. This presentation discussed how social media changed the way people communicate and have allowed user to create their own content becoming prosumers, The features of social media provide an opportunity to publish content against people who belong to a minorities group inside one society. Platforms, such as Instagram, are supposed to ban this kind of content but on the contrary we detected that serves as a media to promote racism and hate.

The second presentation was titled **“Haters on TikTok: Violent behavior and hate speech towards influencers with disabilities”** by FPU Researcher Monica Bonilla del-Rio. The presentation highlighted the effects of Digitalization during confinement and how this has also influenced the need of young people with disabilities to access digital platforms in the different areas of their lives, finding benefits in social media, but also barriers and problematic situations. This research aims to analyse the interactions of TikTokers with

disabilities when they receive negative comments on their videos from haters.

The third workshop was presented by RJ4All Founder and Director Theo Gavrielides, and it was titled **“The Spectrum of hate: A positive prevention strategy”**. In this presentation the application of restorative justice (RJ) with hate crime remains was discussed. The workshop aimed to advance the understanding of these two areas of inquiry: RJ and hate crime. It is known that while most hate incidents involve minor, punishable offences, their impact can be long lasting and detrimental to victims and affected communities. The article investigates how RJ is conceptualised within the hate crime context. The findings are based on a 3-year research program, which combined theoretical analysis, literature review, and U.K.-focused field research that was carried out through a combination of qualitative methods. These included semi structured interviews with an expert sample of practitioners and policy makers as well as focus groups with young victims and offenders of hate incidents. Direct observation was also carried out with two RJ practises.



Finally, the last workshop presenter was Dave Walker who is the Director of an the organisation CALM Mediation. His presentation was titled **“A voice, a choice, a chance for change”**. His presentation focused on community mediation and hate incidents. His presentation specifically touched on the work he does in the London borough of Southwark by acting as a connection between community members and the council in order to create peace and understanding.

Conclusions /recommendations

Despite COVID19 and travel restrictions, this was a truly international event representing 22 countries ! The feedback from the evaluation forms that we received scored the event from “exceeding expectations” to “excellent”. We were able to record an increase in both the knowledge and awareness of the delegates, who left asking more questions than they originally had. This was our true intention as in the UK the issues of migration, Brexit, hate and intolerance have become more complex and intense over the last few years. The Europe for Citizens event truly helped national and European to come together and exchange ideas in a restorative justice methodology where all views are heard and everyone is treated equally and with respect.

There is clearly a long way to go before European societies can claim that phenomenal of intolerance and hate are rooted out. Events such as these help to break down barriers and misconceptions and allow European from across the continent to meet and see what unites them rather what divides them. Learning about the history of migration in Europe, the reasons of migration and the impact of hate intolerance are critical factors for European identity and the development of European citizenship and solidarity.