

## **Political Declaration of Intent against Hate Speech**

Kristiansand must be a city for everyone.

In Kristiansand municipality, there is zero tolerance for hate speech on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion or life stance, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Freedom of expression is protected by the constitution and is strongly valued in our country. At the same time, utterances that spread hatred against other people is not tolerated. Some forms of hate speech are prohibited by Norwegian law and will be prosecuted, other forms can generate serious consequences for private individuals, for groups and for society at large.

We must partake in an active political debate in our society. It is allowed to have strong opinions and there must be room for and acceptance that people have different opinions. A deficient debate environment is a threat to our open democracy. If important voices are harassed to silence, we have all lost.

We as politicians, public authorities and key actors in society are committed to the fight against hate speech and intolerance. We want to lead the way as good role models.

We want a society where there is room for everyone. An open, peaceful and inclusive society that is based on democratic values, universal human rights and mutual respect.

This is a task we cannot solve alone. We must work together to strengthen democracy and freedom of speech. Our democracy deserves it.

Therefore, we will:

- Work for everyone to be able to participate in the public debate and to wander freely through public spaces without being exposed to hate speech.
- Work actively to create room for dialogue, tolerance and awareness regarding the consequences of hate speech.
- Include our fight against hate speech within the systematic work we realize on health, environment, safety at work, as well as in daily work life in school and education.

(For information: The political processing done at Kristiansand on this political declaration of intent was based and designed in accordance a similar statement from the Norwegian government:

[https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/72293ca5195642249029bf6905ff08be/hatefulleytringer\\_uu.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/72293ca5195642249029bf6905ff08be/hatefulleytringer_uu.pdf))