

ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS C.O.N.T.A.C.T.: Creating an On-Line Network, Monitoring Team and Phone App to Counter Hate Crime Tactics

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

C.O.N.T.A.C.T (Creating an Online Network, monitoring Team and phone App to Counter hate crime Tactics) is a European Union supported project that focuses on hate speech and hate crime of a racist, xenophobic, homophobic or transphobic nature. The project includes partners from Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Spain and UK. The project has the following aims:

- to set up a hate crime recording website and phone app;
- to train and raise awareness among relevant actors such as police and officials, media professionals, youth;
- to conduct research into online hate speech and its perception;
- to create a joint university teaching module.

PART 2

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

Within the framework of the project activities, partners developed and carried out a common but contextually sensitive survey with the purpose of assessing, at a pilot level, the opinion of young people on:

1. What they deem to be hate speech;
2. How they perceive hate speech online;
3. What they perceive to be a hate incident against their person or others;
4. How they deal with/would deal with hate incidents against their person or others.

As well as being useful in a scientific, academic and civil society context, these results are directly relevant for the development of subsequent outputs of this project such as the training of educators and the creation of a strategy paper given that the results allow for the development of relevant and context specific outputs.

This report provides an overview of the Greek results.

PART 3

METHODOLOGY

The structure and questions of the survey are the same within the consortium. However, the commentary which respondents are required to comment on are taken from national sources so as to make the survey context specific.

For Greece, the survey was disseminated through the internet (predominantly Facebook) where was absolutely clear that the questionnaire would be anonymous.



Note: 76.5% of the respondents were women.

Two issues arise here: 1. The perception of hate directed at gender 2. Further investigation could be made into the increased willingness of women to respond to (i) questionnaires and/or (ii) the particular questionnaire.

In addition, 97% were Christians (kindly note that 49 respondents opted to skip the question), 94% were Greek and 94% were of University level. As such, the respondents of the survey were overwhelmingly members of the 'majority group' of Greece, and of higher education level. Issues that may arise from this fact may include:

- I. General perceptions of hate
- II. General experience of hate as a victim

Further investigation could be made into the reduced willingness of members of other groups (including LGBT) groups to respond to the questionnaire. Kindly note that the questionnaire was disseminated to networks of groups such as refugees and LGBT persons. However, only 16 respondents were LGBT persons and whilst only one 1 person identified with Islam 1 with Buddhism and could therefore potentially belong to 'minority groups' there was no indication as to their ethnicity.



PART 4: SURVEY RESULTS

1. Characteristics of Respondents

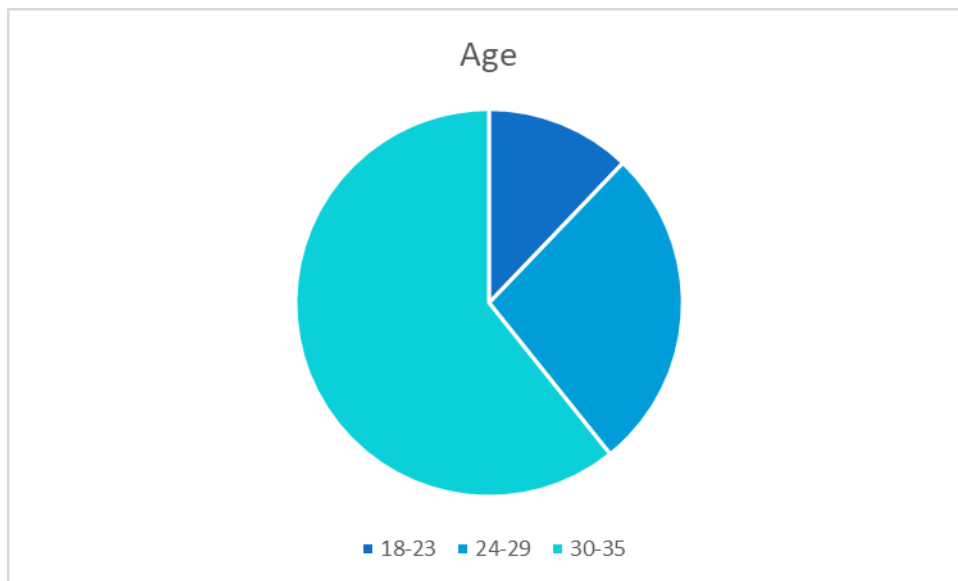
Respondents: Total of 129 respondents (14 out of them not completed)

18-23: 13 respondents

24-29: 29 respondents

30-35: 65 respondents

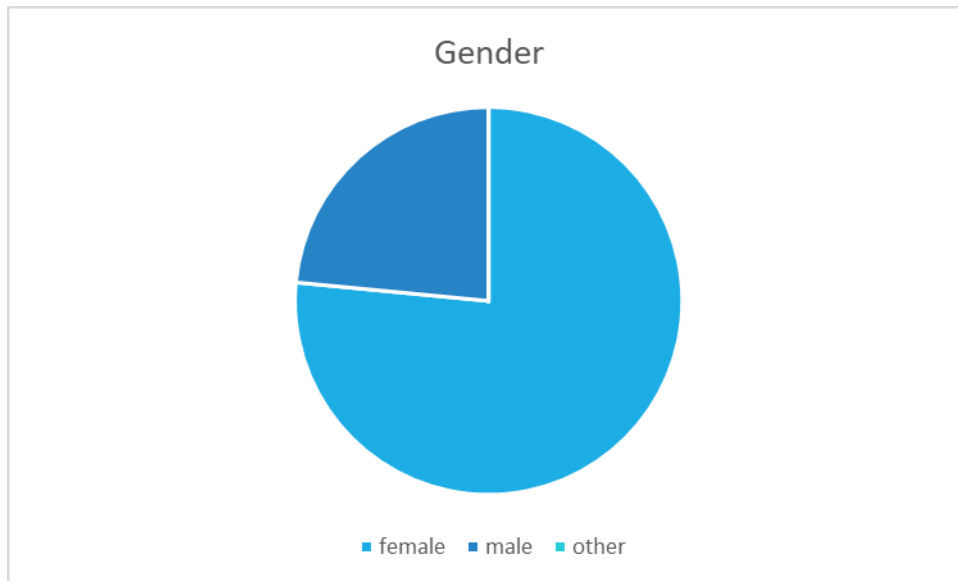
8 respondents chose to skip this question



Gender

Male: 27 respondents

Female: 88 respondents



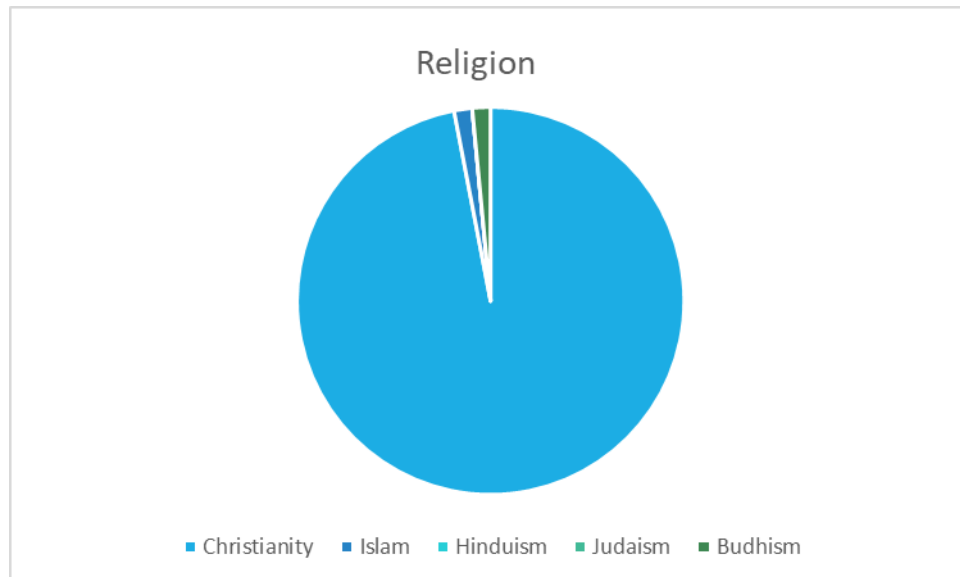
Religion

Christianity: 64 respondents

Islam: 1 respondent

Buddhism: 1 respondent

49 respondents chose to skip this question



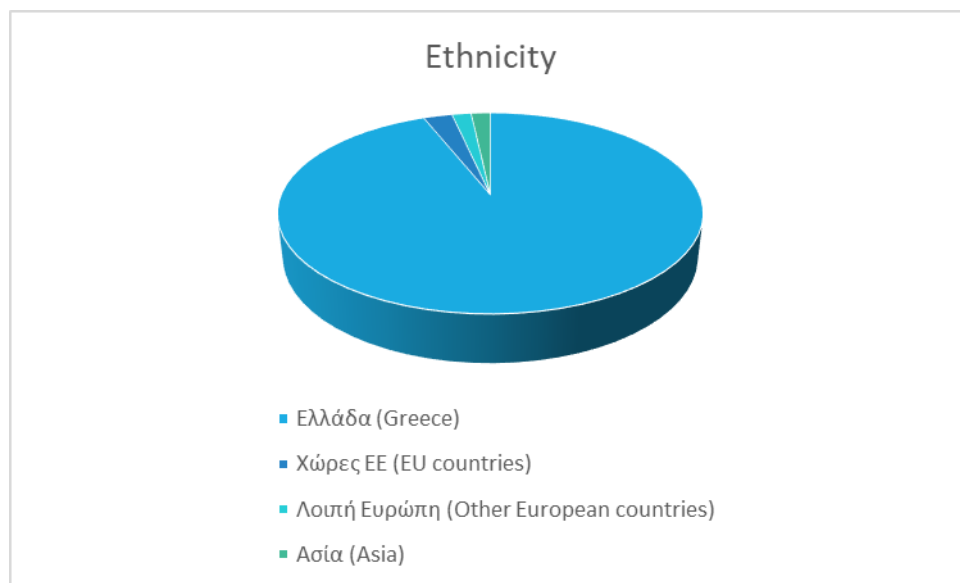
Ethnicity

Greek: 108 respondents

EU countries: 3 respondents

Other European countries: 2 respondents

Asia: 2 respondents

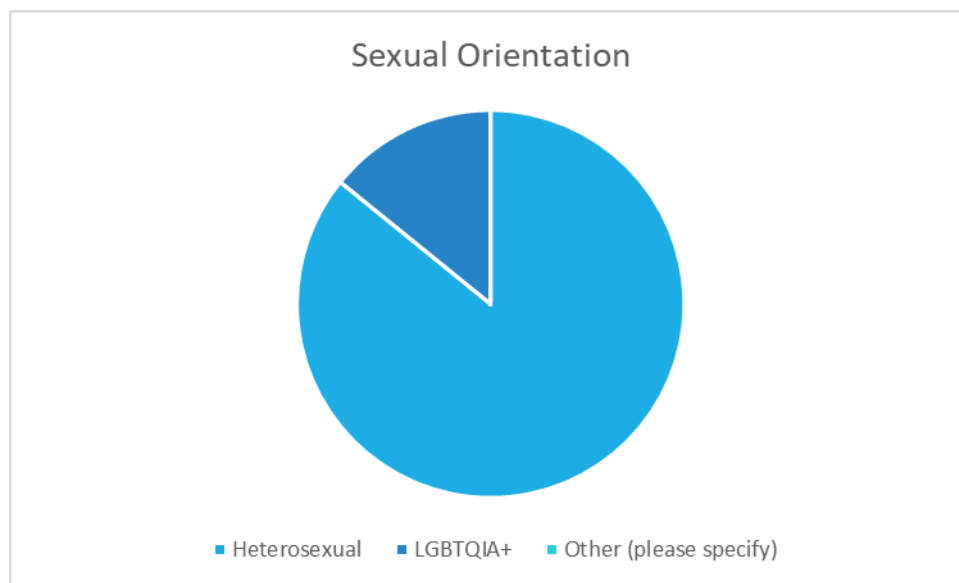


Sexual Orientation

Heterosexual: 97 respondents

LGBT: 16 respondents

2 respondents chose to skip this question

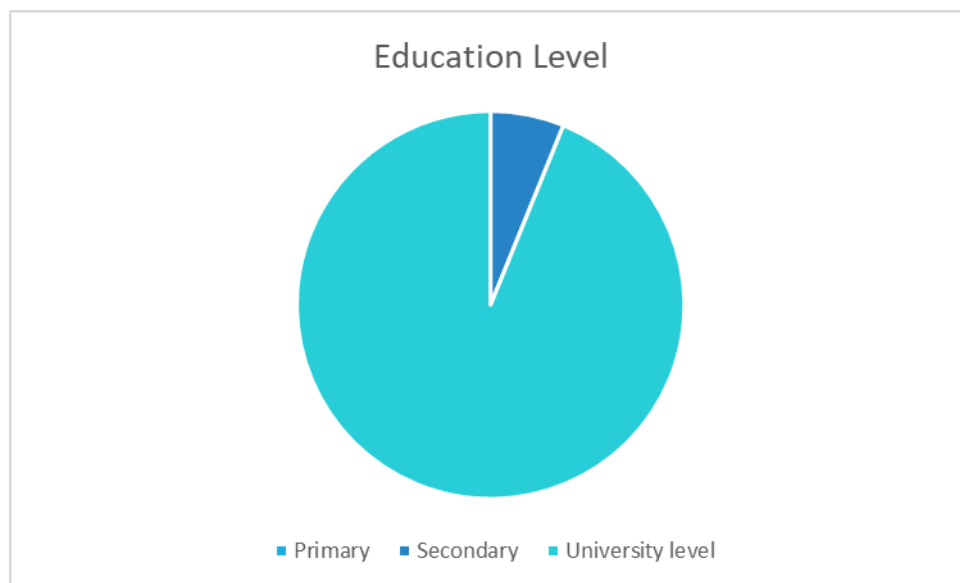


Education Level

Secondary Education: 7 respondents

Higher Education: 107 respondents

1 respondent chose to skip this question

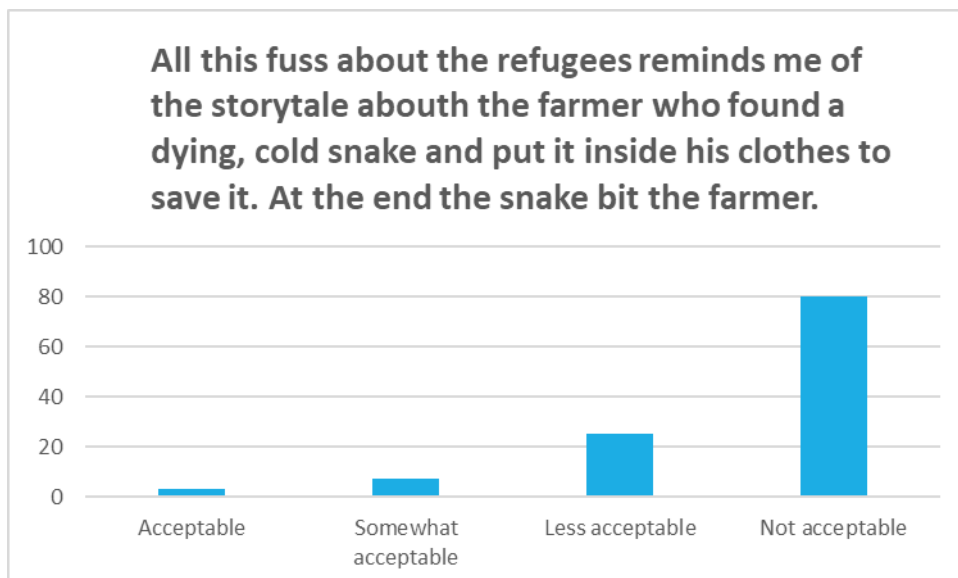
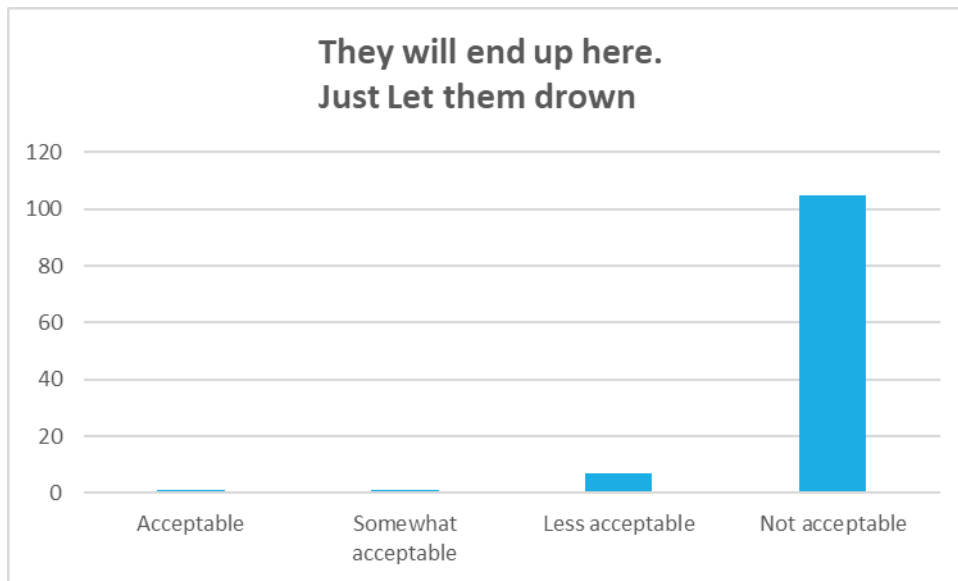


2 (i). Understanding of Hate Speech

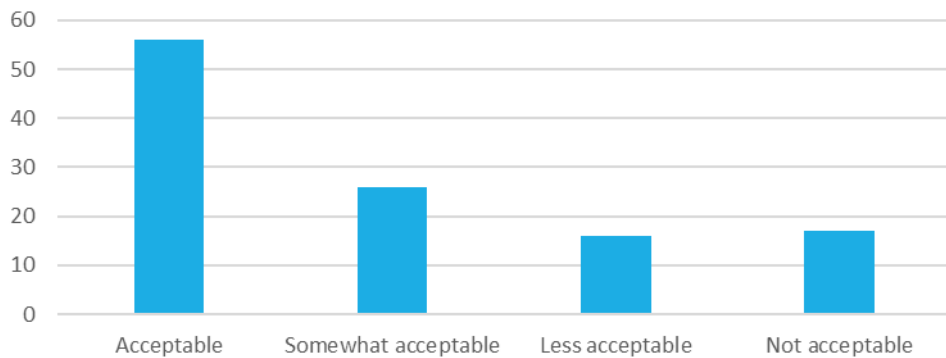
Respondents were given six examples of what people write in online comments in public forums and asked to indicate how acceptable they think it is for people to write such comments online in public forums. The responses were in the form of:

1. Acceptable
2. Somewhat acceptable
3. Less acceptable
4. Not acceptable

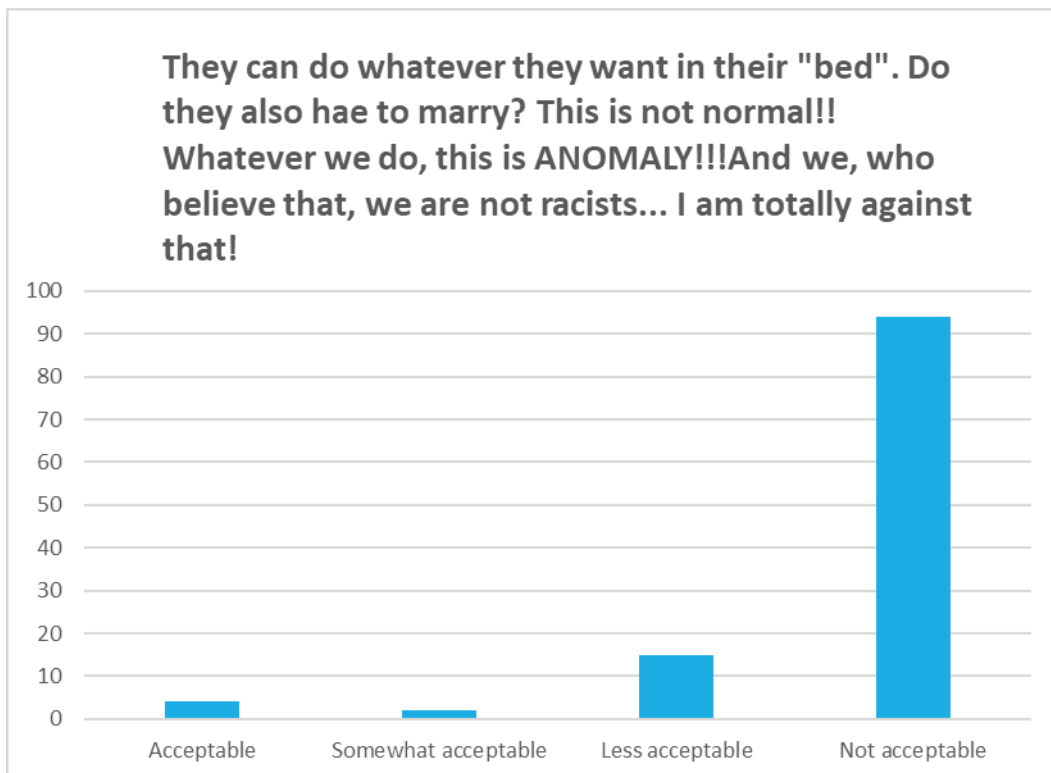
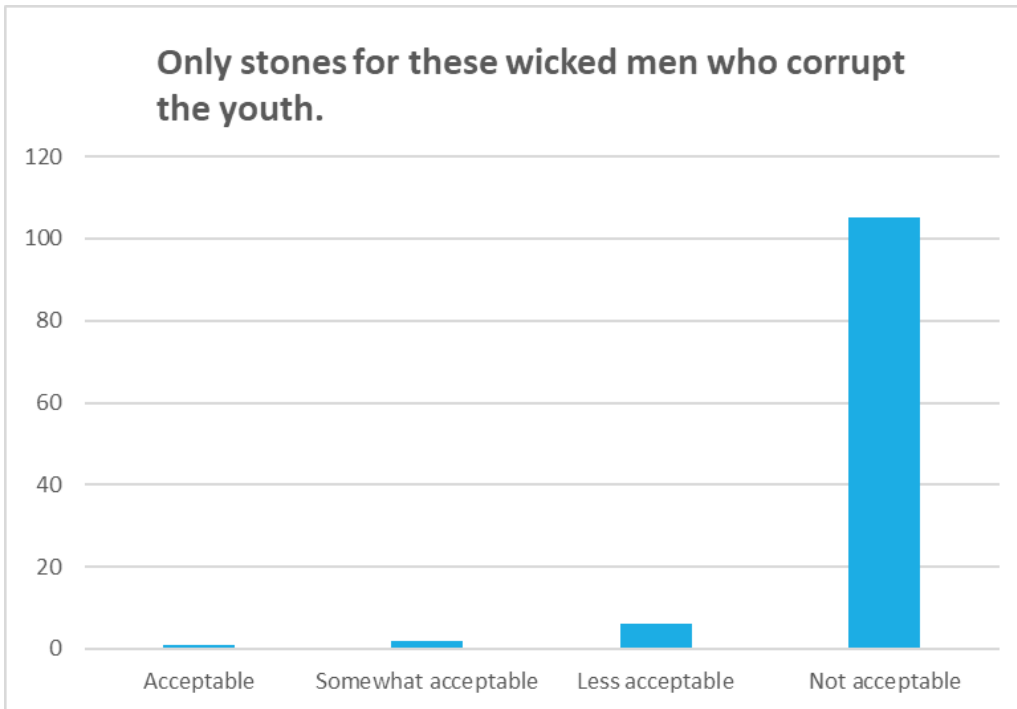
Ethnic Groups and Minorities

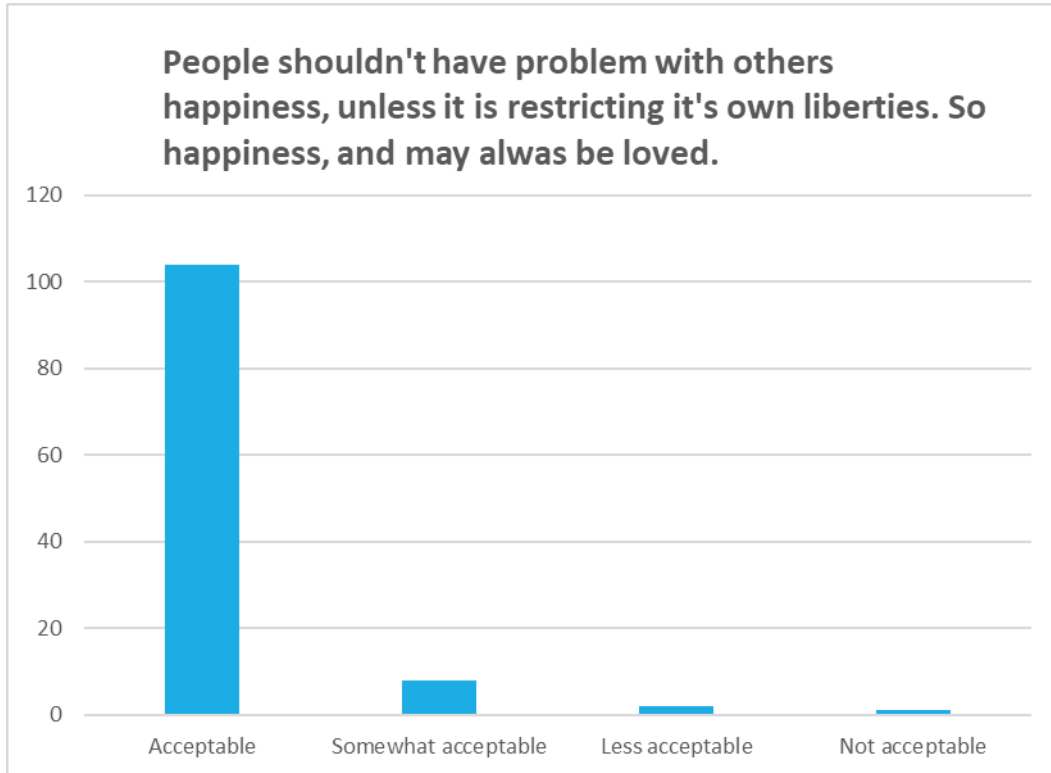


I am not defending their criminal actions, I am just claiming that rapists and outcasts could be of any nationality and exist in all societies. That doesn't mean that all people [with the same nationality] are the same.



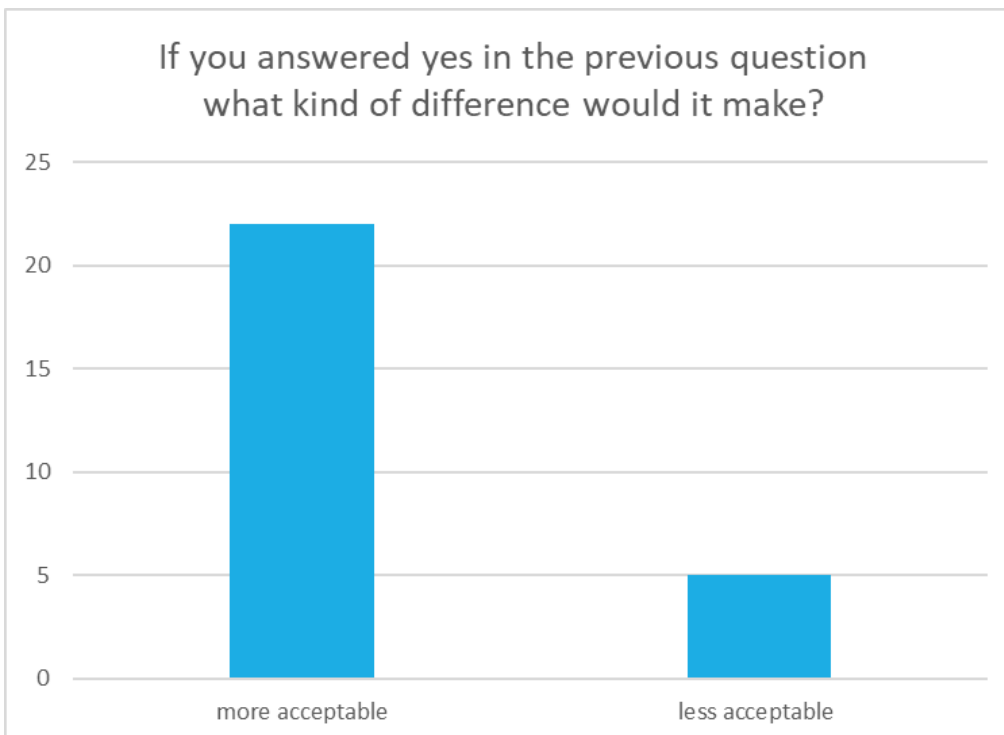
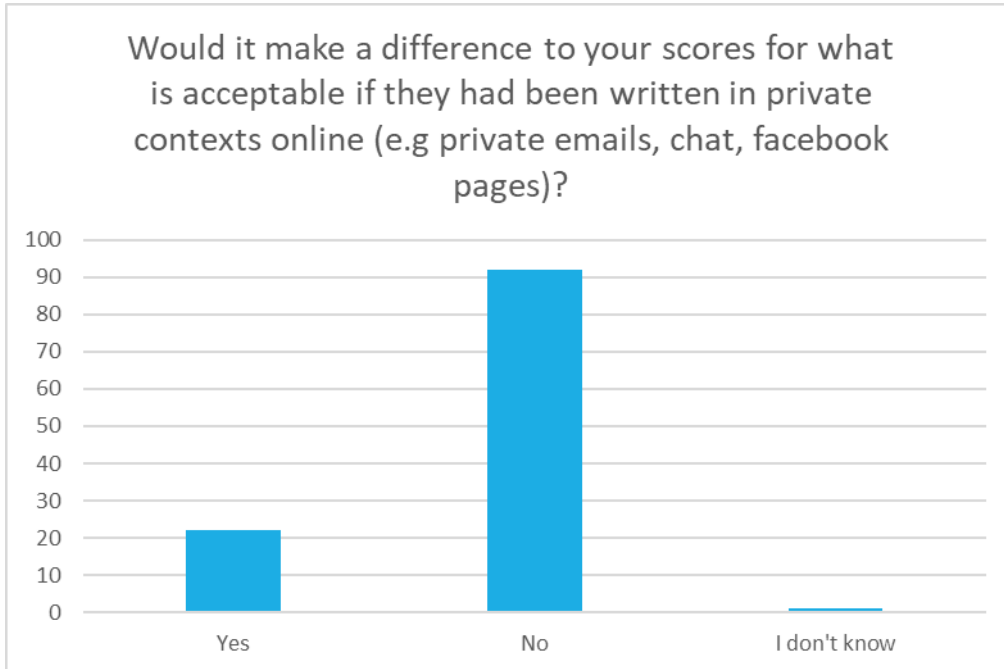
LGBTQIA+





2. Understanding of Hate Speech – Distinction between private and public context

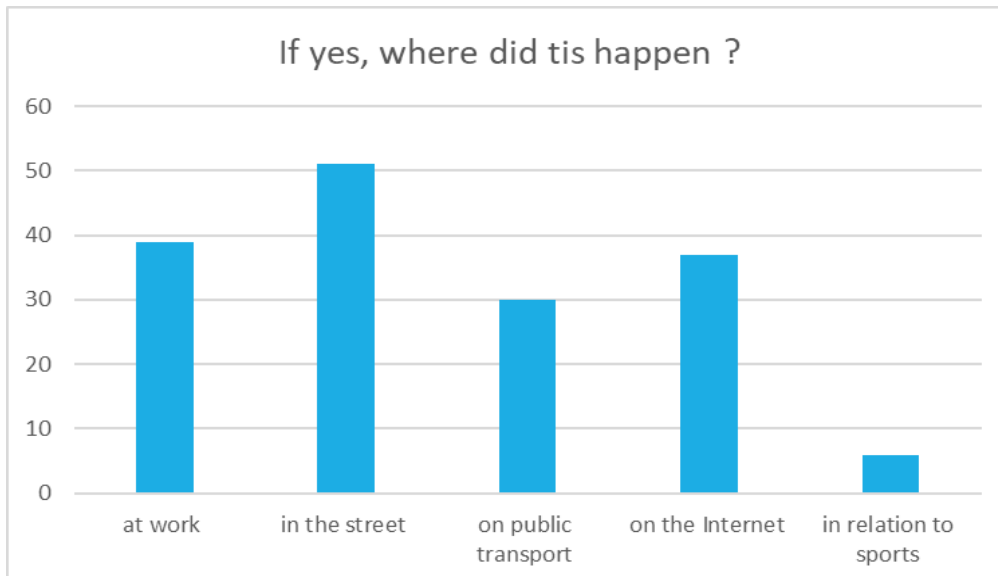
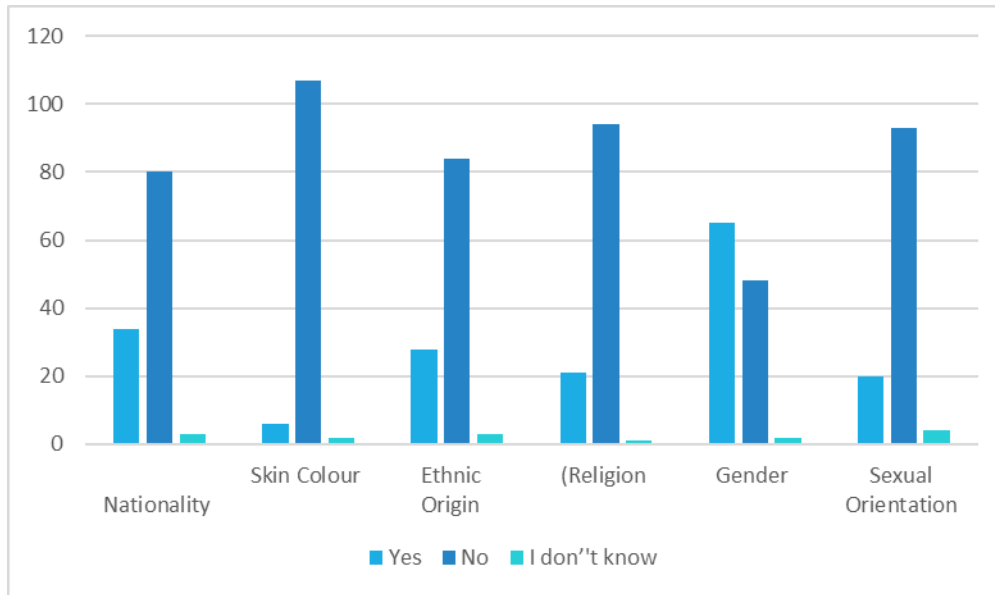
The respondents were then asked regarding where the comments were made

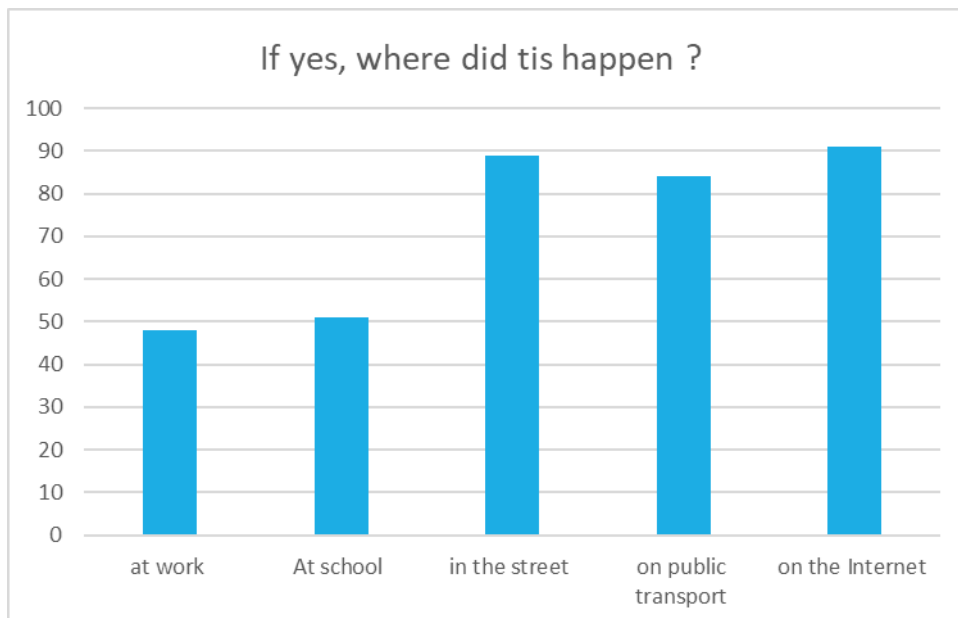
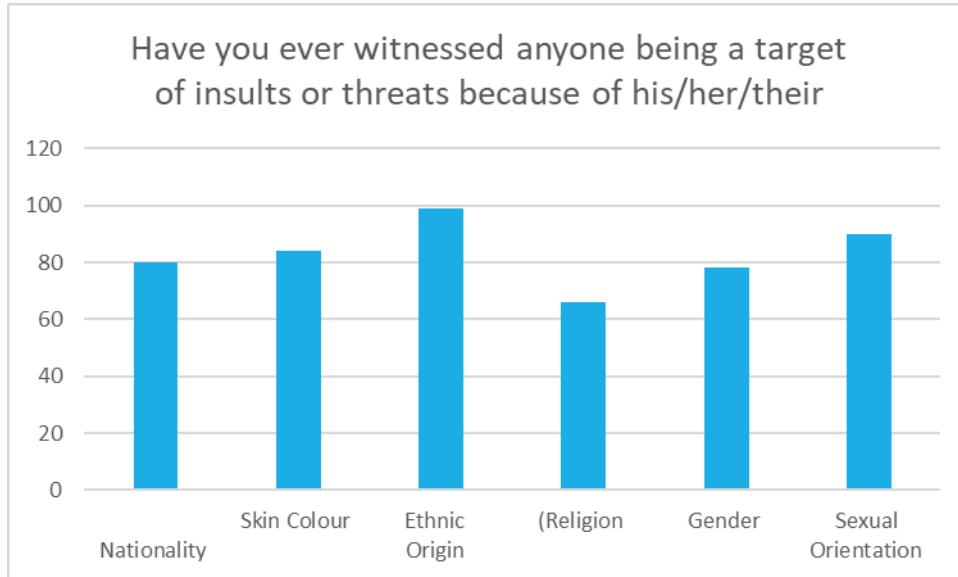


The survey then proceeded to assess the extent to which the respondents had been victims of hate or had been witnesses to hateful incidents.

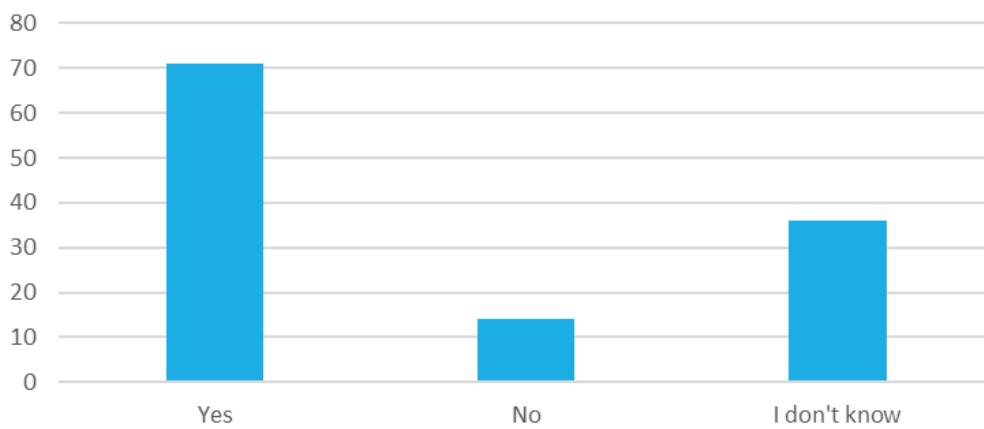
3. Understanding of Hate Incidents and Assessment of Responses

Have you ever been a target of insults or threats because of your (more than one answer allowed)?

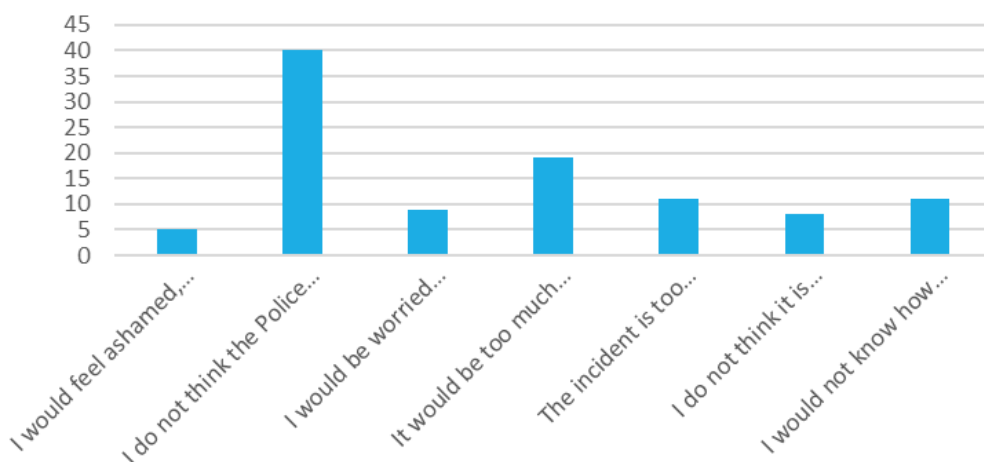


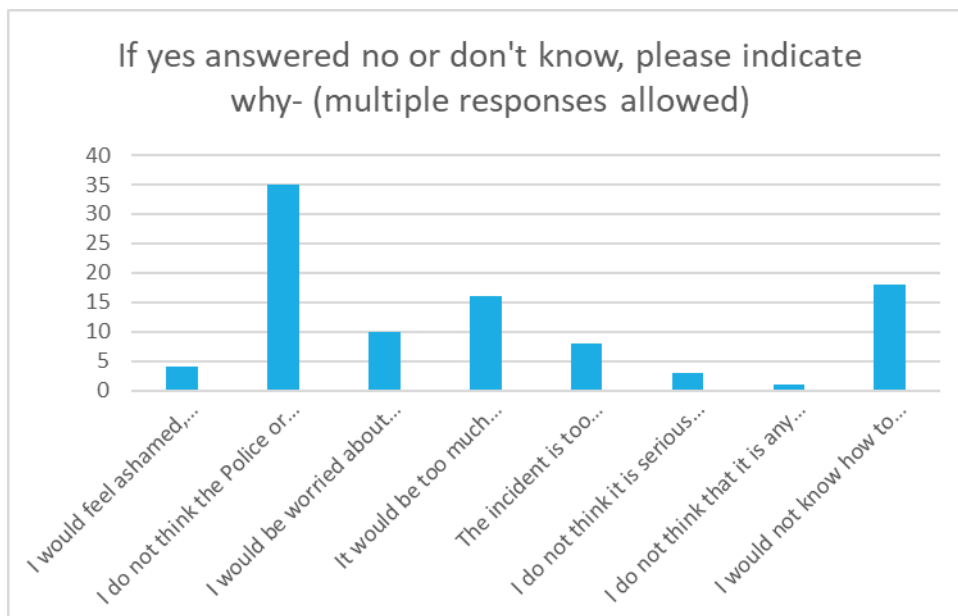


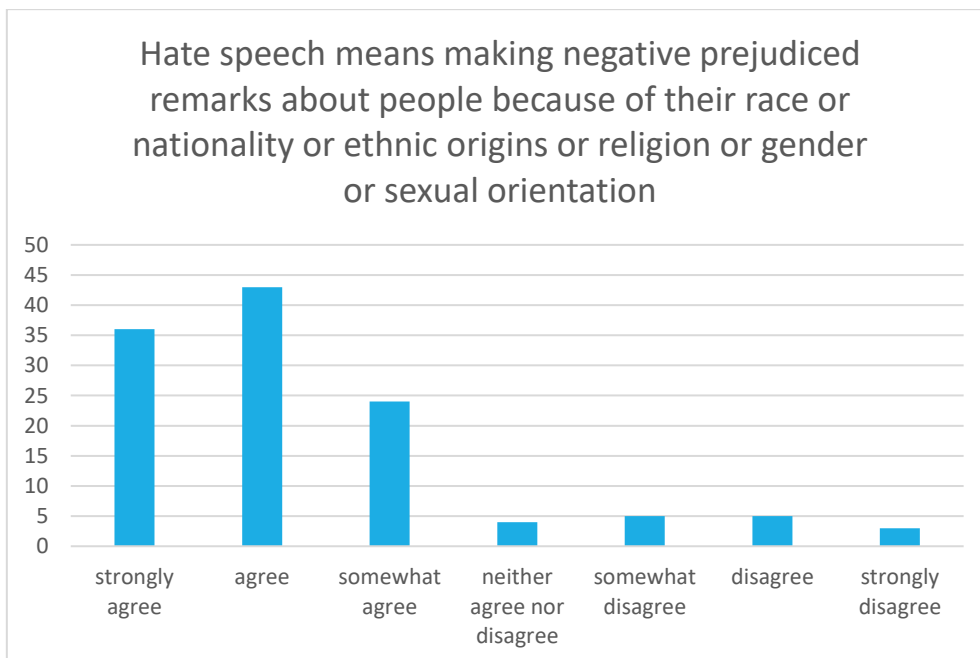
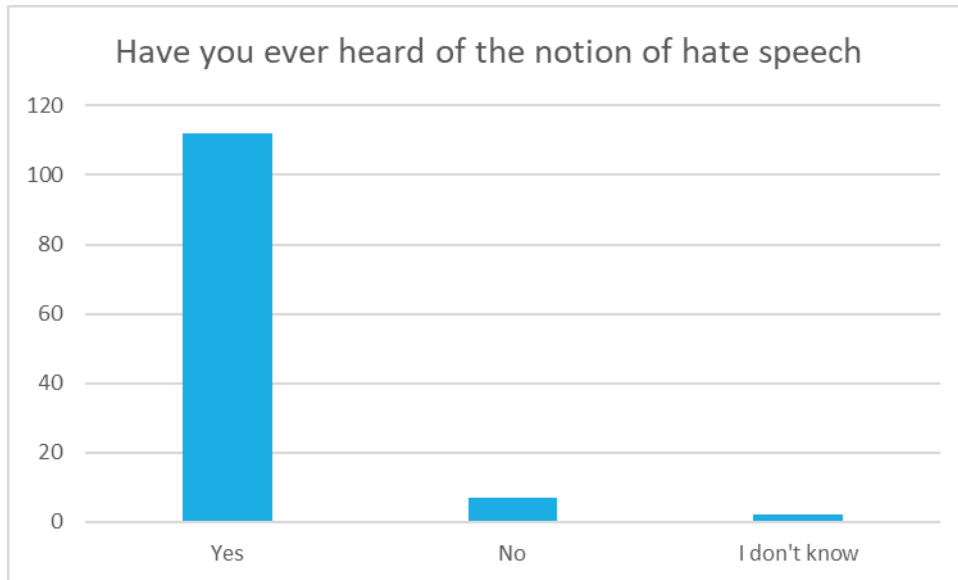
Would you report an incident in which you were a victim of insults/ threats because of your nationality, skin colour, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation ?

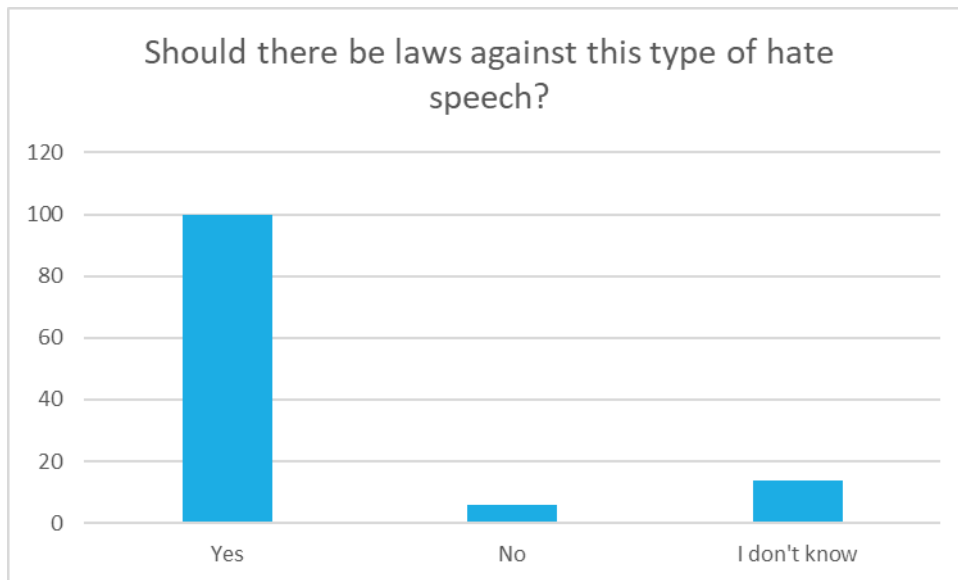
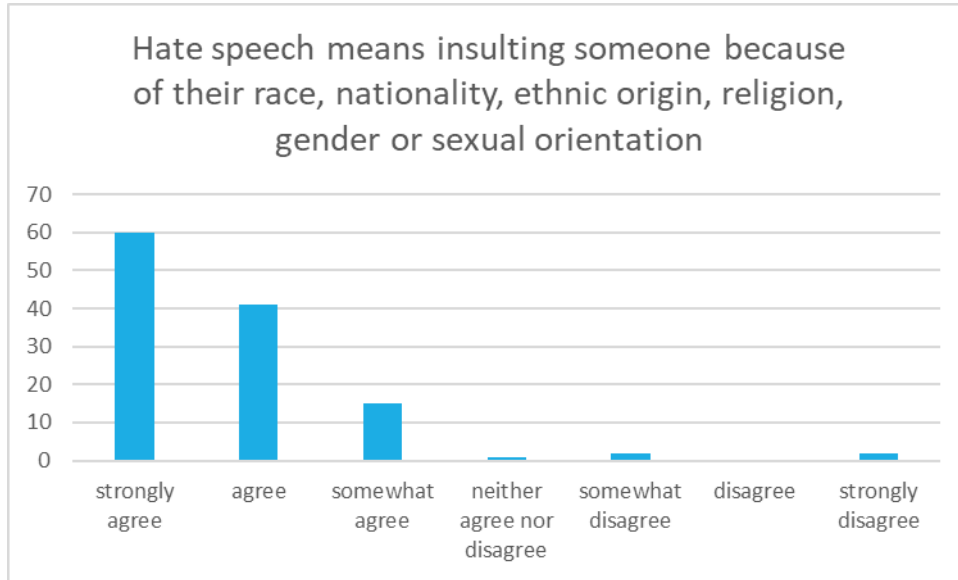


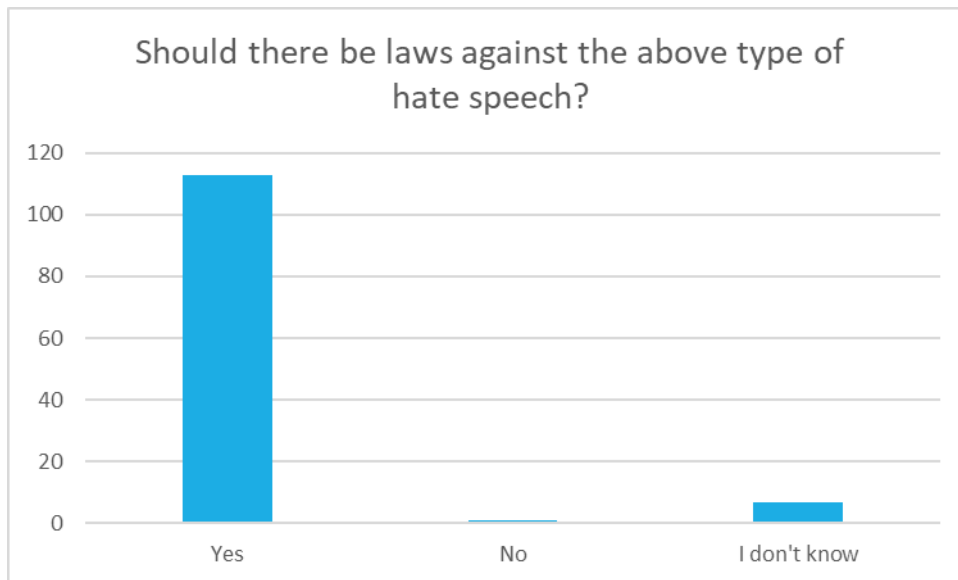
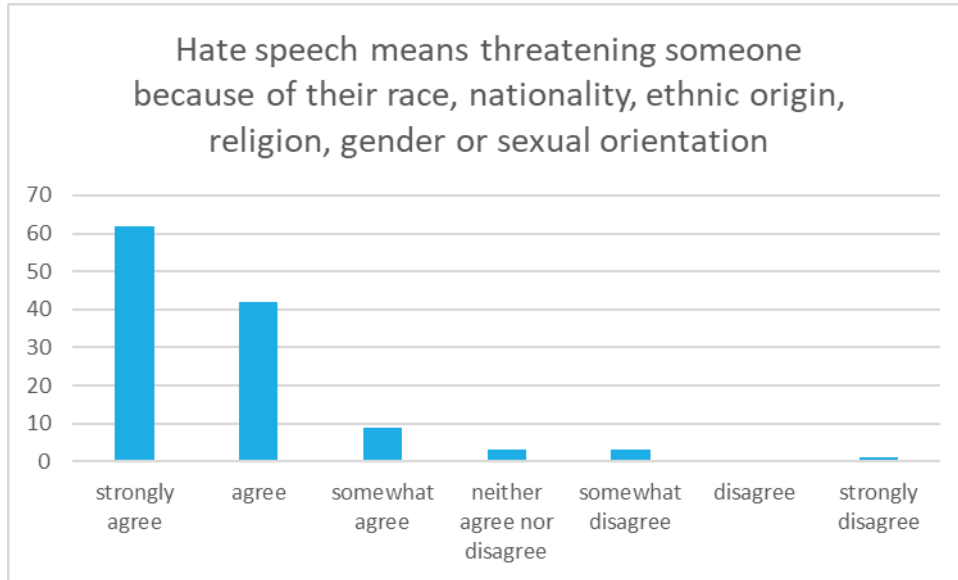
If yes answered no or don't know, please indicate why- (multiple responses allowed)

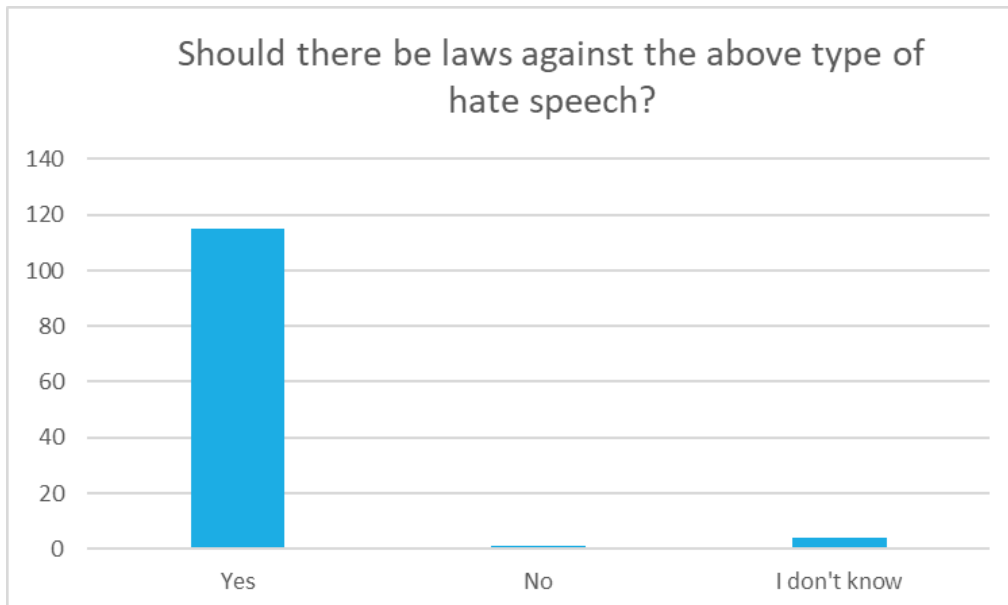
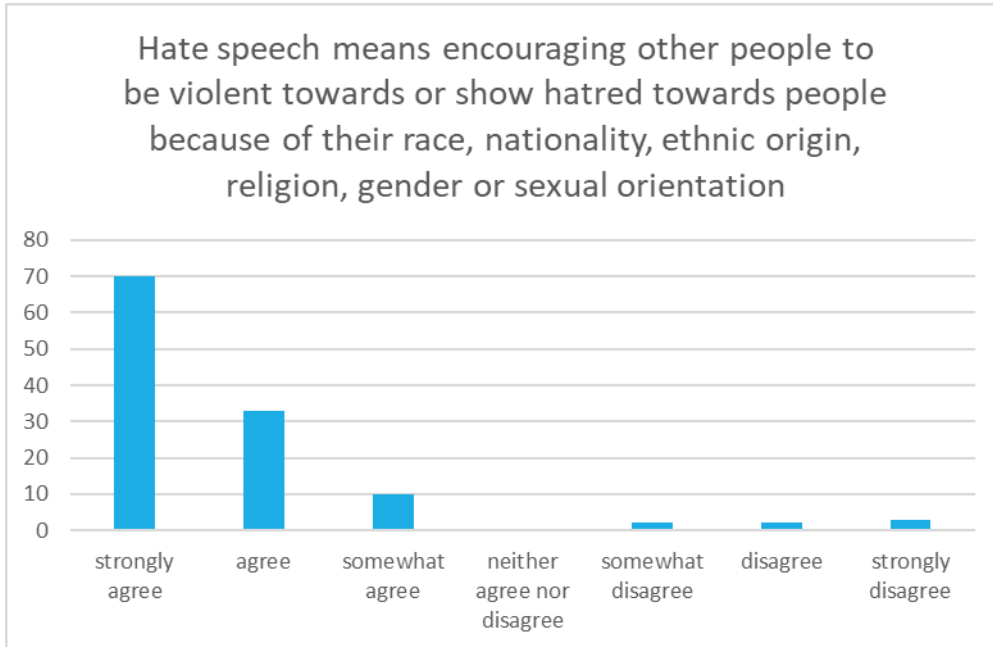












PART 5: ANALYSIS

Considering the above results the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. There is a general trend to consider online hate as unacceptable.
2. The vast majority of respondents found that such hate is not rendered more acceptable if communicated within a private context online (such as an email or personal Facebook page). This further enhances the position that the respondents generally find online hate to be unacceptable.
3. The large majority of respondents have not been targets or insults or threats because of characteristics incorporated in the survey (such as ethnic group or sexual orientation). This result may be directly correlated with the fact that the large majority of respondents were Greeks and Christians, thus members of the 'majority group' of Greece.
4. The most witnessed cases of targets or insults or threats were related to
(i) ethnic origin (99), (ii) sexual orientation (90), (iii) color (84) (iv) nationality (80) whilst 78 respondents had also witnessed such incidents related to gender. The majority of such cases occurred on the internet (91) and at the street (89), whereas the majority of cases in which the respondents were victims occurred at the street (51).
5. In both cases, where the respondents were the victim and the witness, the majority claimed that they would report the incident to the police, whereas in cases where the respondents claimed that they wouldn't, the reason is the lack of trust towards police.
6. The majority of respondents do understand the notion of hate speech and agree with the existence of laws countering hate speech.

