

Essay "Hate Speech", 19.02.2021

I'm privileged. I'm a white, straight, cis woman who is not a public figure. I am not a target of hate speech. However, I know, and after this training even more so, how little it takes for hate to be fostered and spread, especially online.

I am still in the process of fully understanding why. And I am trying to be empathetic towards those people as I know, very deep down, that its empathy that will be the key to tackle this phenomenon. But damn, it is hard. Those people - and let's face it: its mostly men, white men, white, straight, cis men, who spread the hate – they shake my understanding of how decent human interaction is supposed to look like in the very core.

I am a lawyer. I studied law in order to make the world a better place (yeah, I know, naive 20-year-old) but a little part of me is still there. And I hope that I can make a difference. If not in the lives of the angry white men through empathy, then at least in the lives of the victims of their hate. I want to support them in their fight for decent treatment and to stand by their side all the way.

So much happened within the last 5 years or so. The #meee too movement and the black lives matter movement are just two examples of how intersectional the transformation is, must be and how standing up for your rights, speaking about them, saying out loud what for so long had to be made silent is just the starting point of this. We no longer put up with everyone's bullshit. We fight back. And the law is (mostly) on our side. Let's catch up as a society.