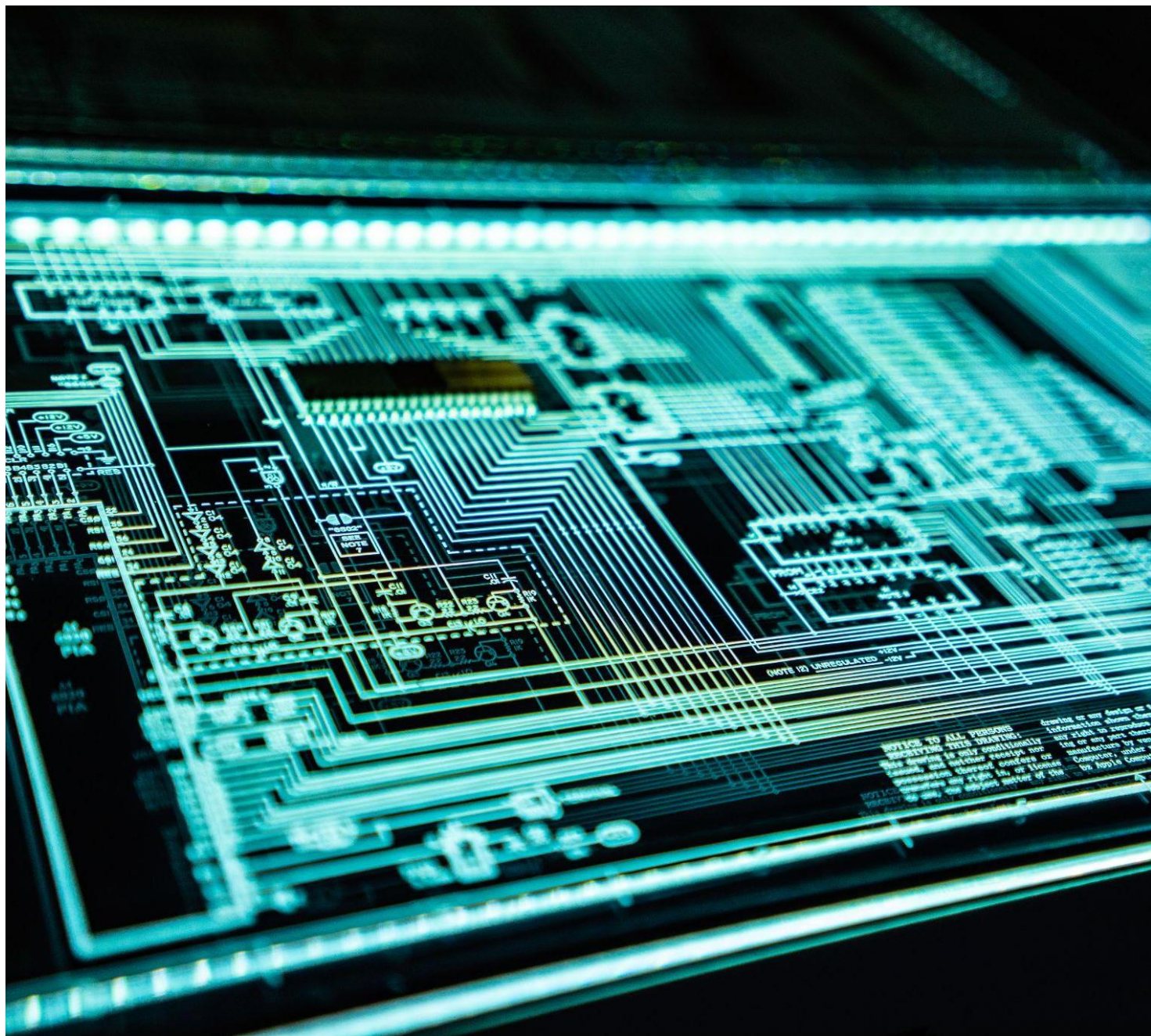




Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights



Compiled by **INACH**  
2023

Annual Report 2023

[www.inach.net](http://www.inach.net)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AGAINST CYBER HATE – INACH</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. EVENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. TRAINING</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. CORPORATE OUTREACH</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. AWARENESS RAISING ONLINE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. MONITORING ONLINE HATE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. OUR MEMBERS MAIN ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>13</b>

## International Network Against Cyber Hate – INACH

INACH was founded in 2002 to use intervention and other preventive strategies against cyber hate. The member organisations are united in a systematic fight against cyber hate, for example as complaints offices, monitoring offices or online help desks. In their respective countries, they provide important contacts for politicians, internet providers, educational institutions, and users.

Funding for INACH is provided by its members, the European Commission and other donors. The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) unites multiple organizations from the EU, Israel, Russia, South America, Africa and the United States. While starting as a network of online complaints offices, INACH today pursues a multi-dimensional approach of educational and preventive strategies.

*This publication has been produced with the financial support of the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the International Network Against Cyber Hate and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.*



Supported by the Citizenship, Equality,  
Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the  
European Union

## Introduction

In this annual report we will explain the activities conducted this year by INACH. First of all, we will describe the main events we organized: the bi-annual webinars, the Annual Conference, the Member's Assembly and the Roundtables with social media.

Then, we will give an update on our corporate outreach efforts, the online training and our contribution to the LYM project and our awareness raising efforts. It will be followed by a description of the Shadow Monitoring Exercise conducted by INACH and its members and partners since this year there was no general Monitoring Exercise and a description of the new SafeNet Project. Finally, we will present our three new members and give an overview of the activities conducted by some of our members. We hope that with this report, people interested in our work can gain a proper overview of, and a deeper, more substantial insight into the workings of INACH's Secretariat and the Network as a whole. We hope to bring the network closer to the public, in turn helping us to bring the online in line with human rights.

## 1. Events

INACH organized several different events in 2023: The annual conference, the members meeting, the roundtable with social media companies and the biannual webinars. The content of discussions during the members meeting and roundtable were confidential but a full report on the annual conference can be found on our [website](#).

### Webinars

Two bi-annual member webinars were organized in 2023 By Love-Storm and Tell MAMA. The goal of the webinars is to shine a light on the work our members do and to share information among the network.

The first webinar by Love-Storm took place on 29 March 2023. LOVE-Storm talked about their unique online training room where trainers can lead role-plays of conflicts in online chats in a safe and realistic way. Based on the human rights education approach it is aimed to encourage citizens to act against hate speech. With applicable strategies for fighting hate speech online, the online training room is a tool that helps citizens promote values of democracy, free speech, tolerance, and participation. This open educational resource now available in German, English, Italian, Croatian and Slovak helps train social competences of internet users and supports civic participation online.

Tell MAMA led the fourth INACH Member Webinar on 22 June 2023. The topic was tackling anti-Muslim hatred together: an in-depth understanding to anti-Muslim hatred online and offline and how we can collectively tackle and challenge hate, racism and discrimination together.

### Annual Conference

The INACH annual conference took place on 5 October 2023 in cooperation with the Spanish INACH member Movimiento Contra la Intolerancia (MCI) in Málaga. The title of the conference was 'Cyber Hate Summit - Connecting to Build Bridges'. The morning session was about developments and new policies in the field of online hate, with an opening speech by María Teresa Verdugo Moreno (Special Prosecutor on hate crime and hate speech); followed by a keynote from the European Commission about the DSA and a presentation by GPAHE on the situation beyond the EU with developments in the US. Afterwards, there was a panel discussion on AI policy and algorithmic transparency. The afternoon session was about how to keep up with the times and changes. To kick it

off, Arun Mansukhani (a well known expert clinical psychologist) opened with his keynote speech, followed by a panel discussion on innovative initiatives and success stories.

A new feature of our event also debuted this year, our networking fairs. We had one in the morning putting forth civil society organizations and one in the afternoon focusing on the corporate world. This enabled fruitful discussions and the creation of new partnerships, like never before at an INACH event. The third Ronald & Suzette award was also handed out to the Greek organization: the Greek Helsinki Monitor. Here is the full [report](#) on the annual conference.

## Members meeting

The annual members meeting started with an update from the INACH secretariat and a feedback session on the Annual Conference that took place the day before. The three new INACH members - Dokustelle, #StopFisha and Hätter Society - introduced themselves and all the other members that were present at the meeting gave an update from their side. A brainstorming session followed on how to make INACH a more united front which led to great suggestions the secretariat will work on to put in effect. After lunch, there was time for a presentation by CEJI on their training of the Facing Facts Network and for the SafeNet Project to be presented by the project coordinator Selma Muhic Dizdarevic.

## Social Media Roundtables

INACH held a roundtable between TikTok and the INACH members in May 2023. TikTok gave a presentation on their policies and discussed issues that the INACH members are experiencing with their platform. Trends in online hate and the challenges were presented by INACH.

INACH also held its second major online roundtable event for social media platforms and the CSO sphere in November 2023. The advocacy event aimed to enhance cooperation between the platforms and anti-hate speech NGOs, exchange best practices, provide policy input for the companies, and receive updates on their policy changes and reporting features. The platforms also answered a myriad of questions that were collected during the work our partners are doing. Six social media companies participated. They gave presentations on topics the companies deemed important and there was ample room for the NGOs to discuss any issues they had dealing with hate speech on social media platforms.

## 2. Training

Throughout the year, more and more people have been signing up to follow the online training. If you are interested, you can find the training [here](#).

INACH also developed the 'Countering fake news and hate speech online' training for the LYM project: Leave Your Mark, funded by the EU under the CERV program. The project is led by Associazione InformaGiovani together with a network of European civil society organizations, among them INACH. The training consists of two main courses, each of which is divided into several sessions. The course on countering cyber hate to prevent its danger to individuals and communities was developed on the basis of INACH's long experience with research, monitoring and countering activities on the subject. The course on fake news was developed by the Associazione Stampa Sarda – the Sardinian Press Syndicate – involving Italian journalists, media experts, university professors and researchers.

Finally, INACH participated in different conferences, workshops and get-togethers around the world to educate about online hate speech, the DSA and other related topics. Here are a few examples:

- INACH participated in the conference of Textgain: 'Protecting Democracy from Online Disinformation', in February 2023.
- INACH attended the UNESCO Global Conference 'Internet for Trust', in Paris in February 2023.
- INACH participated in the Global Summit on IBSA organized by Panorama Global in Miami in February 2023.
- INACH participated in the conference of Textgain in Rome on the 25th of May 2023.
- INACH participated as a civil society representative in Strasbourg during the Council of Europe conference in September 2023.
- INACH participated in giving a presentation during the RAN working group meeting 'The future of online extremism and P/CVE - DSA and technological developments' in Budapest in September 2023.
- In November INACH participated as a panelist and workshop leader during the workshop 'facilitating constructive dialogue - combating online hate speech', organized by TUM Think Tank in November 2023.

### **3. Corporate outreach**

Fighting online hate and racism requires a multi-pronged approach with many different layers of involvement. INACH has continued to focus on corporate outreach in 2023 to engage partners around various initiatives and fundraising. We have continued to work with our current partners, further strengthening our relationships, and we have started connecting with different organizations and engaging new partners.

INACH continued its partnership with Textgain during 2023, working on the conceptualization of the Cyber Hate Neutralization Hub that will be set up by INACH and Textgain. This cutting-edge technology is set to launch in 2024 and it will map the workings of bots spreading hate and fake news and unearth the originators of online hate and conspiracy theories.

We strengthened our partnership with TikTok and Google, who were our largest supporters outside the EC. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to carry out our full strategic plan this year, which included organizing our annual conference in Malaga, starting the second phase of the Hub's development, and carrying out the shadow Monitoring Exercise. We have developed a solid relationship with TikTok, and we expect to grow our partnership with them in 2024. INACH also continues to engage and further develop our relationships with Meta, Microsoft, and LinkedIn. INACH is also cooperating with new Code of Conduct partners Twitch and Viber. During our Annual Conference we cooperated with the companies Tilt Insights, Moonshot and TheFest.

INACH started cooperating with the company Tremau by cooperating in the new European project FRISCO – Fighting teRrorISt Content Online which aims to support Hosting Service Providers to comply with the new Terrorist Content Online Regulation. The project kicked off on 18 November 2022 in Athens, at coordinator's NCSR Demokritos premises. Terrorist and other illegal content online is an increasing issue both from a security and public policy perspective. As a response, the Terrorist Content Online ("TCO") Regulation is addressing violent extremism and the dissemination of such content, setting out specific measures that Hosting Service Providers ("HSPs") exposed to TCO must implement.

Knowing online hate is an issue that affects everyone across the globe, INACH identified organizations and foundations across the world to connect with. We have conducted outreach with organizations in the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, France,



Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Serbia. INACH continues to research and identify potential partners globally.

## 4. Awareness raising online

The INACH secretariat worked on different campaigns to raise more awareness online regarding online hate speech. Please find below an explanation of the different campaigns. However, this year it has been difficult to have campaigns approved for Facebook and Instagram. Many times our campaign requests were rejected. Also, due to the changes on Twitter/X we had less campaigns because we had to re-strategize our approach on the platform.

Next to the campaigns, the Secretariat created content to make the topic of online hate more accessible in the form of GIFs, memes, quotes, #tbt and sharing news articles and/or reports on online hate speech. We also shared videos recorded by the INACH members to introduce their organizations. Finally, INACH shared any kind of news about the INACH members and the work they do. During our Annual Conference we also recorded podcasts with our members and other speakers that will be content to be used in 2024.

**1. Training:** We promoted the first version of the LYM training online in order to attract participants who were willing to give feedback on the training during a one week course in Portugal.

**2. Newsletter:** In order to be able to keep our relations up to date, the INACH secretariat set up a newsletter. It was also promoted on our social media channels in order to reach those who we cannot reach by email or who do not know the INACH network yet.

**3. Webinars:** In 2023 INACH organized two webinars again that were attended by its members, contacts and people from outside the network. Both webinars were promoted online with a campaign, in order to reach a wider pool of people.

**4. Reports:** The different reports written by the secretariat were promoted to generate interest in its activities: the 'state of policy on cyber hate in the EU' policy paper with policy suggestions to prevent- and counter online hate, the Annual Conference Report gives an overview of all presentations during the conference and finally, the Annual Report gives a description of the activities by INACH and its members.

**5. Events:** A teaser of the Annual Conference was made to announce the Annual Conference and it was posted to attract as many participants as possible. 7 posts on the annual conference were made and promoted to shine a light on the speakers and the topics of the Annual Conference. During the conference we also posted a lot of content to attract interest. The Mental Health Week is a yearly online event that lasts a week. This year, INACH shared posts every day on how to deal with mental health and take

care of oneself. Member videos: Every month we shared videos of the INACH members to introduce them and highlight their work.

**6. Other:** Other campaigns focused on informing our public about the new General Manager of the organization and to participate in the campaign set up by the EU: the 'No Hate Speech' campaign.

We have continued to build our following on TikTok and have managed to grow our following on Instagram, X and Facebook. We have also continued to put effort in building a presence on LinkedIn. We now post more often and regularly.

## 5. Monitoring online hate

Monitoring online hate is one of the main pillars of INACH. We divide our work between the ME and the SafeNet Project.

### Shadow Monitoring Exercise

This year the normal annual Monitoring Exercise organized by the European Commission was postponed. However, INACH and the other partners did organize a Shadow Monitoring Exercise with its partners from the 11th of September until 20th of October 2023. 20 organizations participated in the shadow Monitoring Exercise from: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain.

### SafeNet project

Next to the annual Monitoring Exercise and Shadow Monitoring Exercise INACH participates in the 24-month project "SafeNet: Monitoring and Reporting for Safer Online Environments". The project seeks to apply a comprehensive and intersectional approach to prevention and fight against intolerance, racism and xenophobia online. It joins 21 partners, many of them are members of INACH. Many are Trusted Flaggers and have taken part in the monitoring exercises within the scope of the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online.

The project focuses on two priorities: continuous monitoring and reporting hate speech content to the IT companies and responsible authorities. Secondly, awareness raising by regular advocacy towards the social media companies, providing consolidated and interpreted data to national authorities as well as running national bi-monthly information campaigns involving different stakeholders, including IT Companies, public authorities, civil society organizations and media.

## 6. New Members

INACH is proud to welcome three new members this year. They presented themselves during the members meeting and participated in the annual conference, but we would like to introduce them here once again.

### Dokustelle

Dokumentations- und Beratungsstelle Islamfeindlichkeit und antimuslimischer Rassismus (short Dokustelle) is an independent, non-governmental and confidential reporting and support service for people experiencing and witnessing anti-Muslim racism and Islamophobia. Dokustelle was initiated in 2014 by volunteers to render visible the manifestations of anti-Muslim racism in Austria and provide safe space for victims, particularly women. Dokustelle was the first organization to collect data specifically on anti-Muslim racism in Austria and is registered as an association since 2017. The board currently supervises around 15 active members of the association and supporters who meet once a year during a general assembly. Today the main activities comprise: Documentation, Support Service, Monitoring, Empowerment, Advocacy and Cooperation." Check out their website [here](#).

### Háttér Society

Háttér Society, founded in 1995, is the largest and oldest currently operating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) organization in Hungary. Háttér Society's aims are calling attention to the problems faced by LGBTQI people; providing support services; exploring the situation and needs of LGBTQI people; mainstreaming these concerns in laws and public services; protecting the human rights of LGBTQI people and countering discrimination against them; promoting the health and well-being of LGBTQI people; encouraging the self-organization of LGBTQI communities; and preserving and spreading LGBTQI heritage and culture. Check out their website [here](#).

### #StopFisha

#StopFisha is a French feminist NGO which aims to fight against cybersexism and sexist & sexual cyberviolence. Created in April 2020 during the quarantine, the hashtag #StopFisha was created as a counter-movement to the explosion of dissemination and the exploitation of intimate content without consent – "fisha" meaning "to display" and

humiliate, is the name given to the practice of disseminating intimate content. The #StopFisha was therefore created as a support for the victims and as an alert to denounce cybersexism. As the movement continued on growing, #StopFisha became a NGO which now not only fights against the dissemination and exploitation of intimate content, but also against all forms of sexist and sexual cyberviolence. Based in Paris, we have branches throughout France, as well as in Belgium and Turkey. Our missions revolve around 4 axes: the monitoring and reporting of online gender-based violence ; legal and psychological support for victims ; raising awareness ; and finally, advocacy. However, the NGO also does some research, tries to innovate on tools and solutions against online gender-based violence, and keeps track of trends on social media. Our expertise in the field has led us to write a book "Association Stop Fisha: Fighting Cybersexism" – the first book in France on the topic."

## 7. Our Members Main Activities in 2023

Please find a description here of the main activities in 2023 from some of our members.

### #StopFisha

This year, #StopFisha celebrated its three year anniversary with multiple events we attended, initiatives we led, and changes that we keep on making.

In March, we organised our first international conference named “Cybersexism: a new age of violence” at one of the world’s top universities in political science: Sciences Po Paris. UNESCO, the French Minister for Gender Equality, a Belgian MP, a representative of the European Parliament and activists attended the conference in order to make an “état des lieux” and brainstorm on the issue, at a time where the DSA, the Directive for combating violence against women, and the AI Act were actively discussed. During this event, the Minister for Gender Equality announced that #StopFisha will be mandated to elaborate France's annual national report against technology-facilitated gender based violence - which is a big victory for us due to the lack of data on the issue.

With INACH, we also attended the first ever “Global Summit against Image-based sexual abuse” organised by the Reclaim coalition in the United States. This event was crucial to reconnect survivors and fighters across the globe in this battle, which is often very hard to lead individually. Connecting with other changemakers was also made possible during INACH’s annual meeting and its conference in October, in Malaga, which also gave us the strength to keep the fight going.

In France, we had another victory. The French version of the DSA, law “SREN”, was discussed recently and we were able to submit 13 law amendments, including 9 which were voted! The next and final step is the validation of these laws by the Constitutional Council. If they were to be considered constitutional, here is what will change in France, thanks to our input:

- Sending pornographic deepfakes through private messaging will be illegal,
- During a criminal investigation for cyberviolence, the judge will be able to ban the person under investigation from using their social media (in order to prevent them from continuing cyberharassing victims).
- Anti-abortion social media accounts would be banned,

- Sextorsion between adults would be finally criminalised,
- Sexist insults online would be criminalised through an innovative system called “fixed fine” - initially applied for cars that exceed the maximum speed get an automatic fine. Here, the same system would apply on the Internet for people commenting with sexist insults. By receiving a fine in their letter box, then they would realise that the Internet *is* real life.

## Africa Sans Haine

In summary this year 2023:

- Africa Sans Haine held a training on the fight against hate speech and disinformation during the electoral period on January 14, 2023 in Mbujimayi in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Funded by our American partner PeaceTech Lab, this training was aimed at journalists, members of political parties and civil society actors.
- In April 2023, Africa Sans Haine, through Jean Hubert Bondo, became a member of the steering committee of Global Alliance Against Digital Hate and Extremism (GAADHE).
- On October 4, 2023, in anticipation of the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for December 20, 2023 in Congo-Kinshasa, Africa Sans Haine launched the campaign to combat electoral violence, hate messages and disinformation during the electoral period in this country. This is a three-month campaign that will run until the end of December 2023.

The objective is to contribute to inclusive and peaceful elections in the DRC by denouncing dangerous speeches, calls for violence, etc., whether they come from the media, political parties or civil society leaders.

## CEJI

Here is an overview of some of the activities, milestones and accomplishments of CEJI in 2023:

- Mapping Report – [Current activities & Gaps in hate speech responses](#)  
A research project on what motivates and supports communities of practice like ours to learn and connect online. This is part of the Facing Facts Network activities.



- [European hate crime and hate speech response systems](#) (EP Conference July 6<sup>th</sup> 2023)
- Blog post - [Holding politicians accountable: ECtHR's landmark ruling on hate speech](#) (Sanchez vs. France)
- Blog post - [Intersectionality: a necessary approach in the fight against antigypsyism](#) (blog post by FSG)
- [Facing Facts Toolkit in a time of crisis](#)
- [CEJI Toolkit on how to mitigate bias when reading the news](#)
- Participation in the [National seminar on combating hate speech and award ceremony for trusted flaggers training participants in Spain](#)
- As part of the EC-Funded [BRIDGES](#), we started a series of training sessions (we did 1 out of 4) for community organisations and local representatives.
- Intervention in the [IGLYO conference on hate crime and hate speech](#)

## CESIE

In 2023 CESIE successfully completed [PARTICIPATION](#) in the Horizon 2020 project, focused on polarisation, radicalisation and violent extremism.

Amongst the number of research reports and papers it produced, there is also the [extremism&radicalization analysis](#) - a GoogleChrome plugin that detects hate speech, propaganda and extremist narratives in online text.

The consortium also published a book called "[How to Explain Radicalization?: A Comparison on the Driving Factors of the Far-right, the Far-left, Separatist and Religious Extremism](#)" with Mimesis International."

## Dokustelle

here you can find Dokustelle's last statement about the concerns regarding anti muslim hatred since October 2023:

[https://dokustelle.at/fileadmin/Dokuments/Statement\\_Dokustelle\\_English\\_10.11.23.pdf](https://dokustelle.at/fileadmin/Dokuments/Statement_Dokustelle_English_10.11.23.pdf)

## Estonian Human Rights Center

In 2023, the Estonian Human Rights Centre continued to monitor the presence of hate speech within Estonian society, with a particular emphasis on its prevalence on social media. The most frequently targeted groups were refugees and the LGBT+ community, in line with findings from previous years. In addition to providing training and

publishing articles on hate speech and its consequences, the year 2023 marked a significant development where due attention was finally given to rectify the flawed hate speech legislation in Estonia.

In March 2023, Estonia held parliamentary elections, and the results led to the establishment of a liberal coalition between three parties. All coalition members had made campaign promises to improve hate speech regulation in Estonia, and these commitments were subsequently incorporated into the coalition agreement. EHRC had long advocated for appropriate legislation in this regard.

Currently, the Estonian Penal Code includes a provision prohibiting the incitement of hatred, but it is seldom enforced. This provision only penalizes incitement to hatred that endangers a person's life, health, or property, and demonstrating the existence of such a threat has proven to be challenging, impeding the implementation of the provision.

In June 2023, the government approved a draft hate speech bill. According to the proposed law, incitement to hatred, violence, or discrimination against a group of people or a member of a group based on nationality, skin color, racial background, gender identity, health and disability, language, origin, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, or property or social status will be considered a crime in the future. Under the proposed law, only actions that instill a fear that the call will lead to violence or pose a threat to the security of society will be subject to punishment.

EHRC submitted its positions on October 10th 2023. In general, EHRC welcomes the proposed changes and notes that it is a positive development that disability is being introduced as a protected characteristic. At the same time, EHRC recommended adding age as a protected characteristic and evaluating whether there are other groups that require legal protection against incitement to hatred.

In addition, throughout the year, EHRC has convened numerous meetings and seminars with other non-governmental organizations and government officials to closely monitor the legislative process and ensure that the perspective of civil society is not only heard but also given due consideration.

Should the proposed bill be enacted into law, it is imperative that civil society engages in a deliberation concerning the essence of these amendments. It is uncertain, for example, how law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judicial system will interpret the concept of a "threat to the security of society." If the state adopts a restrictive

interpretation, the efficacy of the new provision may be compromised, akin to the current situation.

## FOA

During the first month of the war (October 7th to November 7th, 2023), FOA monitored and reported a total of 34,182 antisemitic (based on the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism), anti-Israeli, pro-Hamas, violent items, alongside fake news regarding the war. Hateful content was monitored across nine social media platforms: X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, VKontakte, Telegram, Reddit, and LinkedIn.

The majority of the content was published on X (56%, 19,240 items), Facebook (21%, 7,262 items), Instagram (13%, 4,520 items), and TikTok (8%, 2,862). Only 2% of the content (478 videos) was found on YouTube. The content was monitored in 8 different languages, mainly in English (47%), Russian (27%), French (12%), and Arabic (9.5%). 4.5% of said content was in Turkish, Polish, Serbian, and German.

The average removal rate of above-mentioned content monitored and reported by FOA in the relevant timeframe across platforms is 26%, higher than the average removal rate in 2022 (20%). The highest percentage of content was removed by Facebook (35%), followed by X (28%), YouTube (27%), Instagram (27%), and TikTok (24%). Since FOA is recognized as a 'Trusted Flagger' by these platforms, FOA contacts them directly and propel them to remove hateful content. This direct involvement of FOA resulted in a higher removal rate of content monitored on the platforms.

A comparison between the volume of content monitored and reported on social media during the relevant time in 2022 and 2023 yields a shocking, yet unsurprising finding three times the antisemitic and anti-Israel content was monitored and reported in 2023. Here is the full report: [Online Antisemitism Amid Israel-Hamas War: Month One.](#)

## Global Project Against Hate and Extremism

This year the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism published a variety of analyses related to online hate. In the wake of the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, GPAHE tracked growing hatred towards Jewish and Muslim communities on unregulated forums including 4chan. The study can be found here:

<https://globalextrémism.org/post/fringe-platforms-online-hate/>. GPAHE also documented the continued presence of the transnational white supremacist Generation Identity organization on mainstream social media. Our findings suggest that especially on Twitter and YouTube, content moderation is [failing](#). Twitter even removed and then put [back up](#) these white supremacist accounts. For the third year in a row, we documented [organizing](#) of the annual Independence Day March in Poland, which features far right extremists of various kinds, on Facebook and other social media. Our calls to remove the accounts went unheeded. Our work to monitor growing neo-Nazi networks continues including an extensive [report](#) on Active Clubs which also discovered that the search engine Bing was [facilitating](#) their creation through its AI processes. Other work on online hatred included an investigation of a major Russian website, pro-LGBT.ru, [spreading](#) hatred against the LGBTQ+ community, Google [running](#) ads next to hate content and neo-Nazi content on TikTok, which was [removed](#). We also created a new international far right and hate symbols database, with over 500 symbols, that is [being](#) used by tech companies and law enforcement to track hate online. We continue to [monitor](#) and report on the white supremacist “Great Replacement” conspiracy theory and its uses both online and off and have produced a series of country [reports](#) on far right hate and extremist groups that we use to report online accounts to the tech companies. In Europe, we have reports on Bulgaria, Italy, Ireland, France, Portugal and will soon publish one on Germany.

## Greek Helsinki Monitor

Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM)'s major work concerns combating hate, mostly on-line speech. In the framework of the INACH-led Safenet project, platforms have removed since January 2023 more than 300 posts or accounts reported by GHM, half of which authored by neo-Nazis.

Moreover, following GHM related reports, Prosecutors have launched criminal investigations against neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party for homophobic actions, a former football star and now extreme right politician for hate speech posts removed by the platforms, two cases of transphobic and xenophobic front page covers of a daily trash newspaper, two conservative New Democracy government politicians for xenophobia and antiziganism, and football hooligans for incitement to violence.

In addition, following GHM reports in previous years, Prosecutors have referred to trial in 2023 a notorious neo-Nazi politician and lawyer for his repeated fascist salutes in the appeals trial of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn, the leader of an extreme right party

for antiziganism, a racist and conspiracy theory blogger for incitement to homophobic violence against judges, a bus driver for racist behavior against a migrant passenger, while the European Parliament lifted the immunity of a Greek neo-Nazi MEP so that he will be referred to trial for antisemitic and xenophobic comments. Also, the first instance conviction for public incitement to anti-migrant hatred of another trash daily paper, following a GHM complaint, was confirmed on appeal.

Finally, a Supreme Court Prosecutor accepted a GHM application and filed for the cassation of an acquittal on appeal of a union leader who had been convicted at first instance for incitement to racist violence following a GHM complaint: the Supreme Court will hear the case in November 2023.

In recognition of his work, GHM's Panayote Dimitras received the Antiracism Award for 2023 during the annual march against discrimination organized by the Greek Forum of Migrants on 21 March 2023. [picture from here <https://www.efsyn.gr/sites/default/files/styles/main/public/2023-06/dimitras.jpg.webp>]

In recognition of his work, GHM's Panayote Dimitras received the Ro & Suz award 2023 for his work in fighting a tireless battle against hate speech, racism and human rights violations, and in more recent years, also against cyber hate. You can find more information on it here: [Ro & SuZ Award 2023 Magenta History \(stichtingmagenta.nl\)](https://www.stichtingmagenta.nl/en/ro-suz-award-2023)

(GHM)'s major work concerns combating hate, mostly on-line speech. In the framework of the INACH-led Safenet project, platforms have removed since January 2023 more than 400 posts or accounts reported by GHM, half of which authored by neo-Nazis.

On 27 November 2023, Greece's National Radio and Television Council imposed a fine of 100,000 euros on the private TV channel "ART" [sic] belonging to the leader of the now defunct racist extreme right party Popular Orthodox Rally (LAOS) for a program aired on 2 May 2019 in which the notorious Nazi author Kostas Plevris aired his anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial views. The fine was imposed following the examination of a complaint dated 06.05.2019 by Panayote Dimitras, who reported to the Authority, regarding the above broadcast, [the presence of] "anti-Semitic hate speech, including complete denial of the Holocaust". It is noteworthy that an identical and concurrent criminal complaint submitted again by Panayote Dimitras was filed by the Athens Racist Crimes Prosecutor on 9 June 2020 because what was said in that TV program "could not incite to hatred or violence or threaten or insult [the Jews]" while she did not address the charge of denial of the Holocaust which is also prosecuted by the anti-racism law.

GHM has asked the Deputy Supreme Court Prosecutor in charge inter alia of hate crimes to reopen the criminal case.

On 11 October 2023, an Athens Appeals Court confirmed a judgment of the Athens First Instance Court with which the publisher of the extreme right newspaper Eleftheros Kosmos and well known extreme right party National Front leader Dimitris Zafeiropoulos should pay the well-known LGBTQI+ activists and GHM members Andrea Gilbert and Gregory Vallianatos and the sister and sole heir of the late LGBTQI+ activist and GHM member Evangelia Vlami almost 10,000 euros to each for having published on 30 November 2009 an article by the notorious homophobic Nazi author Kostas Plevris with the title "homosexuality is a perversion." The initial lawsuit was filed by GHM in the names of its three members and Panayote Dimitras was a witness in the trials. A similar appeal by Kostas Plevri himself against the first instance judgment is pending before an Athens Appeals Court. Kostas Plevris has been convicted twice in criminal trials for the aforementioned and another homophobic texts of his but the criminal appeals trials were not held as the cases fell into conditional prescription, while the final judgment by an Athens Appeal Court to pay compensation to Andrea Gilbert for the second homophobic text after a GHM - filed lawsuit is awaiting execution. Despite all that, on 26 November 2023, Kostas Plevris made another homophobic statement that "homosexuals suffer from a psychosomatic illness" which means that a new litigation will be launched by GHM.

## Háttér Society

In 2023 Háttér Society started the joint implementation of the SafeNet project by hiring a new online hate speech monitoring officer. We have reported more than 350 hateful contents to social media platforms so far during the project and made over 450 reports including other activities. We also hosted an online solidarity workshop with the aim to discuss how the participants can help the LGBTQI community as a simple social media user. A significant part of the workshop was focusing on identifying and reporting online hate speech. Háttér Society launched a dissemination campaign aimed at promoting its publication on homophobic and transphobic hate speech. The publication contains a section on online hate speech, including advice on how to step up against the phenomenon.

## Human Rights House Zagreb

Throughout 2023 Human Rights House Zagreb continued their work of monitoring and reporting hate speech, especially online. HRHZ continued their educational work on the topic of hate speech and worked with trainers, teachers and police officers on how to better tackle the problem of hate speech and how to work on the topic of hate speech with young people.

In September HRHZ in cooperation with the Service for Lifelong Education, organized a workshop for police officers, deputy state attorneys and state attorney advisors on the topic of processing hate speech at the Police Academy "Prvi Hrvatski Redarstvenik". The workshop was conducted as part of the project "Strengthening the protection system and empowering communities to recognize and suppress hate speech in Croatia". The focus of the workshop was how to recognize, investigate and process hate speech, taking into account freedom of expression and the generality of legal regulations.

In October HRHZ held a panel discussion: "Implementation of the recommendations of international bodies for the protection of human rights in the area of suppression of hate speech".

The topic of the discussion was the recommendations of international bodies for the protection of human rights in the area of suppression of hate speech, and the protection and promotion of freedom of expression, as well as the situation and challenges in this area in Croatia.

HRHZ presented the results of an analysis through an overview of key areas where there is room for improvement, like the legal framework and monitoring of cases of hate speech, and ECRI in its Report drew attention to the legal uncertainty arising from different sanctioning regimes that are applied to incidents of hate speech as misdemeanors. In addition to the legal framework, monitoring and the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation in this area, in its recommendations, ECRI also touched on the responsibility of public authorities and recommends that the authorities condemn hate speech and promote counter-speech by politicians and high-ranking officials. In relation to prevention, the emphasis is on strengthening the capacity of the system and the continuous education of children and young people through stronger systematic and quality education for human rights.

In November HRHZ held a training for moderators of online media, web pages and content of social networks as part of the project "Strengthening the protection system and empowering communities to recognize and suppress hate speech in Croatia ". The

goal of the project is to formulate a holistic approach to fight against hate speech, which will achieve long-term social changes in the area of the right to protection from discrimination and freedom of expression.

At the training, practitioners shared their experiences in the field of online content moderation, and there was an open space for discussion and exchange of experiences related to the challenges that moderators face. The training was also an opportunity for networking so that these experiences could later be used as recommendations that the project team will advocate through further work.

Human Rights House Zagreb, as part of the Erasmus+ project "Online learning platform against online hate", developed and published the "Love-Storm" web platform. The project was implemented in four European countries: Germany, Italy, Slovakia and Croatia with the financial support of the Erasmus+ program. Partners in the project are: Bund für Soziale Verteidigung /LOVE-Storm (DE), DigiQ (SK), Università di Firenze (IT), House of Human Rights in Zagreb (CR), in cooperation with the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH).

An online learning platform has been created, the aim of which is to strengthen the competences for the fight against internet hatred by means of interactive simulations. The platform includes educational materials and resources relevant to effectively dealing with online hate speech. The Love-Storm platform uses participatory methods and tries to sensitize users to the harmful consequences of hate speech towards victims through role-playing and simulation. As part of the project, a Training Room was developed, a virtual space where trainers can lead the role-playing process in a conflict in an online environment. HRHZ held training sessions for trainers to identify and suppress online hate speech, using participatory methods, a human rights-based approach, role-play and how to use that Platform and Training Room for working with trainers, teachers and the youth.

## Jugendschutz.net

We would like to highlight our own Annual Report and one particular Report about the War in Ukraine and how Telegram is used to spread Propaganda:

1. The War in Ukraine on Telegram – A right-wing Extremist Node for Disinformation and Conspiracy Narratives (Dec. 2022). Right-wing extremists use Telegram as a hub for spreading targeted disinformation and conspiracy narratives. Right-wing extremists feel that they can spread their propaganda unhindered, with hardly any concern that it will



be deleted. The report shows how they use the service for their propaganda and how the platform deals with violations. Here is the full report:

[https://www.jugendschutz.net/fileadmin/daten/publikationen/en/reports/report\\_the\\_war\\_in\\_ukraine\\_on\\_telegram.pdf](https://www.jugendschutz.net/fileadmin/daten/publikationen/en/reports/report_the_war_in_ukraine_on_telegram.pdf)

2. 2022 Report (Annual Report) Risks and Need for Action. In 2022, [jugendschutz.net](https://www.jugendschutz.net) processed 7,363 infringement cases. 66% of the violations were related to sexualized violence. Political extremism followed with 13% and pornography with 8%. Self-harm accounted for 7%, violence 5% and cyberbullying 1%. [jugendschutz.net](https://www.jugendschutz.net) forwarded 79 cases of infringement to the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM) to initiate supervisory proceedings. In addition, [jugendschutz.net](https://www.jugendschutz.net) submitted 104 cases to the KJM for indexing by the review body at the Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Minors (BzKJ). [jugendschutz.net](https://www.jugendschutz.net) sent 2,219 cases to the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) because child and youth pornographic content was distributed or there was a danger to life and limb (e.g. threats of violence, suicide announcements).

By the end of the year, 6,654 cases (90 %) had been removed. All in all the Report shows that there is still a lot to be done to provide minors the chance for safe participation in the online world. Find the full report here:

[https://www.jugendschutz.net/fileadmin/daten/publikationen/en/annual\\_reports/annual\\_report\\_2022\\_protecting\\_minors\\_on\\_the\\_internet.pdf](https://www.jugendschutz.net/fileadmin/daten/publikationen/en/annual_reports/annual_report_2022_protecting_minors_on_the_internet.pdf)

## LICRA

Founded in 1927, Licra (International League Against Racism and Antisemitism) is one of the older French non-governmental organisations involved in fighting racism, antisemitism and xenophobia and promoting universalist values, such as secularism. With 54 local entities in France, Licra is also present in other countries, especially in Switzerland, Barcelona and New York.

The NGO is composed of several departments: European and international affairs, education, sport, legal assistance, human rights and remembrance, culture, anti-discriminations affairs, and youth. Licra is also providing training in all French police academies and raising-awareness in schools and universities about fighting racism and discrimination.

Both with INACH, Licra have coordinated monitoring exercises, in collaboration with the European Commission, and from 19 NGOs from several European countries, in order if IT Companies comply with the EU Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech

Online. They have also coordinated shadow monitoring exercises. All reports are available on INACH's website: <https://www.inach.net/category/publications-cyber-hate/>.

Licra also participates in the 24-months SAFENET which seeks to apply a comprehensive and intersectional approach to prevent and fight online intolerance, racism, and xenophobia. It joins 21 partners, members of the International Network against Cyber Hate (INACH) and the umbrella organization itself.

In 2023, Licra is the project coordinator of LIGHT, an YOUTH Erasmus + project, which main objective is to fight against unconscious bias and invisible racism by equipping educators and professionals in direct contact with young people so that they can make them aware of their prejudices. This project brings together 5 NGOs from different European countries.

The Licra legal department receives many reports on online hatred. Between January 1 and November 30, 2023, there were 1047 reports of online hate. However, we have noticed an increase of antisemitism hatred since October 7, 2023. Indeed, there are 5 times more reports of antisemitic content on social networks than during the same period in 2022. However, there is huge increase of antisemitism since October 7,

## Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis conducted research on gender and cybersecurity in North Macedonia and the Western Balkans. Chapter 5, namely 'The rise of hate online: Hate speech in cyberspace targeted at women in North Macedonia', is based on a research they conducted in North Macedonia aimed at identifying the gendered component of reported cases of online hate speech and exploring discrepancies in the treatment of these cases by authorities in North Macedonia. The research builds on earlier research which produced a mapping of human rights issues related to cybersecurity, with a focus on the right to privacy, freedom of expression, protection from discrimination, and freedom of assembly, published in 2022. Read the full report [here](#).

As part of the promotional campaign for this research Metamorphosis also created other outputs in English, among which:

- [Visualization: Gender – based Hate speech in online media in North Macedonia](#)
- [Visualization: Gender-based Hate speech online \(HSO\) in North Macedonia](#)
- [PODCAST: How does gender-based harassment against women online contribute to self-censorship?](#)

- [Walking the Tightrope: Balancing between Free Speech and Hate Speech](#)  
(educational article)
- [“How to survive in a society overwhelmed by hate on the Internet?”](#)  
(educational article)

Additionally, Metamorphosis was part of the 2023 School of Policies within the Presidential Center for Political Education that was organised on 27-29.10.2023 in Ohrid, North Macedonia. Metamorphosis Foundation was part of the fifth module with a series of lectures on dealing with disinformation, fact-checking and hate speech, sharing many years of experience and fresh insights from the ongoing initiatives. More information can be found here: [The 2023 School of Policies was completed, the Metamorphosis Foundation with lectures on disinformation and hate speech.](#)

## Never Again

The following publications by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association are milestones of our activities (monitoring, advocacy and awareness-raising) in 2023:

- <https://nigdywiecej.org/en/our-news/204-articles-from-2023/5036-hate-speech-on-youtube-documented-in-a-new-report>
- <https://nigdywiecej.org/en/our-news/204-articles-from-2023/5081-new-%E2%80%98brown-book%E2%80%99-documents-prejudice-and-hate>
- <https://nigdywiecej.org/en/our-news/204-articles-from-2023/5236-shoot-them-report-on-hate-speech-in-the-election-campaign-in-poland>

## ZARA

ZARA – Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit published the annual report on online hate: [https://assets.zara.or.at/media/ghinbericht/6\\_GHiN\\_Bericht\\_PDF.pdf](https://assets.zara.or.at/media/ghinbericht/6_GHiN_Bericht_PDF.pdf)

It's only available in German but here are some insights: online hate is not only constantly present and threatening, but also reaches into the most intimate areas of those affected. Since the counselling centre was founded in September 2017, a total of 11,514 reports have been received by ZARA - Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit. In the 6th year of counselling (October 2022 - September 2023), 1,824 cases were reported, 71% of which were motivated by prejudice. The most prevalent ideology is racism, followed by sexism.