# INACH

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights

## 2002 to 2022 - 20 years of combating cyber hate:
## Lessons learned and future challenges

### Bios and abstracts

### Day 1

**Tamas Berecz**

Tamás Berecz is an expert in the field of sociology and criminology. His main fields of research have been the media, specifically the racist tendencies towards the Roma in the Hungarian and international press. Since the start of his professional career, Mr. Berecz has been researching violent extremism and online and offline hate speech and hate crimes both locally and globally. In his final two years at the Institute, he researched terrorist groups on a global scale and wrote two books on the most active and dangerous terrorist outfits in the world. Since the beginning of 2016, Mr. Berecz has been working at the International Network Against Cyber Hate as the head of research and analysis, collecting data and conducting research on hate speech online. Furthermore, he was involved in the development of an international cyber hate database and complaints system. He has helped develop the methodology for the EC run monitoring exercises to monitor online hate speech on social media, contributed to the development of INACH's counter speech curricula for the youth and law enforcement agencies, carried out multiple trainings on the international cyber hate database, the monitoring exercises and on counter speech. He has also contributed to the development of INACH's online counter speech training space and co-wrote most of INACH's reports in the past 6 years.

**Philippe Schmidt**

Philippe Schmidt is managing partner of the law firm Schmidt Brunet Litzler established more than 20 years ago. He is a graduate of Paris University School of Law, HEC and Columbia University School of Law. He is a member of the Paris Bar and has taught law for many years at the University of Paris. Today, he is chairman of INACH (International Network Against CyberHate) and both Vice President of LICRA (International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism) in charge of Digital Affairs and one of the members of its legal committee. As one of LICRA's lawyer, Philippe Schmidt has been engaged in many litigations related to Racism and Anti-Semitism and specialized on the issue of hate on the Internet. He was LICRA's lawyer in cases involving Google and Twitter. He also represents LICRA at the new observatory of the cyberhate created by the recent law on cyberhate.

**Stefan Glaser**

Stefan Glaser is Director of jugendschutz.net, the joint organization of the German Federal States for Youth Protection on the Internet. For many years, he was head of the department dealing with political extremism and in charge of jugendschutz.net's international co-operation. In 2002 he co-founded the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) and served as Board Member until 2019. Stefan holds a university degree in educational and political science. He has published the book "Erlebniswelt Rechtsextremismus"; as co-editor and co-author, which sets the focus on modern forms of right-wing extremist propaganda and adequate counter strategies. He developed concepts and handouts for media educational work and wrote essays on topics related to youth protection on the Internet, extremism and other issues. Prior to his job at jugendschutz.net he worked as an educator with school kids and was involved in trainings with youngsters and adults.

_Abstract_: From the very beginning the idea of INACH was thrilling and its realization ambitious. Founded by the Dutch Magenta Foundation and the German watchdog jugendschutz.net, with two additional member organizations from Switzerland and Belgium, an office under the shelter of Magenta, almost no money but a bunch of work: that's how we started in 2002. Throughout the years the network grew, and with it friendships. We dealt with new challenges, were motivated by successes and setbacks, had a lot of fun and also to cope with tragic moments. After all, today INACH is stronger than ever and the most important international player when it comes to hate on the Net._

**Karolin Schwarz**

Karolin Schwarz is an author and journalist covering misinformation, conspiracy theories and the far-right, including far-right terrorism. She has worked as a fact-checker for various German outlets and served as an expert witness on disinformation in the German Parliament and on terrorism in the Halle terrorism trial. Her book "Hasskrieger: Der neue globale Rechtsextremismus" was published in early 2020.

_Abstract_: Right-wing extremists were quick to recognize the Internet as a tool for themselves. Since the spread of digital networks, a cat-and-mouse game has developed between them and platforms, civil society and law enforcement. The talk traces the development of right-wing extremist activities from the 1990s until today, focusing on strategy and methods, as well as responses to their online activities._

**Menno Ettema**

Menno Ettema is Programme Manager at the No Hate Speech and Anti-Discrimination Cooperation unit, Anti-Discrimination Department of the Council of Europe. He was co-secretariat to the Experts Committee that drafted the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on Combating Hate Speech which was adopted in May 2022. In his function he brings together the organisations work on combatting hate speech and

discrimination through standards setting, monitoring and capacity building programmes in cooperation with European partners and member States. He previously worked as the European coordinator of the No Hate Speech Movement, a youth campaign of the Council of Europe to mobilise young people for human rights and against hate speech online (2016-17) and as an educational advisor (2010-2015) for the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. He holds a Masters degree in Psychology of Culture and Religion of the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

*Abstract*: *An introduction and discussion about this new recommendation and how it can be utilised to advance the work on preventing and combating (online) hate speech.*

### Tarlach Mcgonagle

Dr. Tarlach McGonagle is Programme Director of the master Information Law and associate professor at IViR. He is also Professor of Media Law & Information Society at Leiden Law School (a part-time chair financed by the Leiden University Fund). McGonagle specialises in a broad range of topics relating to international and European human rights law, especially the rights to freedom of expression and religion; minority rights; participatory rights, and cultural and linguistic rights. His other main area of expertise is international, European and comparative media law and policy. Themes such as pluralism, diversity, tolerance and "hate speech" have a central place in his research. He regularly advises and writes expert studies for various branches of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations. He is co-rapporteur of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on combating hate speech, having previously served as a member of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on quality journalism in the digital age and as Rapporteur of both the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership (2016-2017) and its Committee of Experts on protection of journalism and safety of journalists (2014-15).

*Abstract*: *Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)15 on combating hate speech is a milestone document; it modernizes the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers' approach to countering hate speech offline and online. This presentation will examine some of the complex legal issues addressed in the recommendation, especially in an online environment. It will trace the recommendation from the principles established in relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and reflect critically on the challenges for implementing the recommendation's guidelines at the level of member States. It will also briefly position the recommendation in the broader context of other international and European instruments dealing with the same issues.*

### Josephine Ballon

Josephine Ballon is a lawyer and Head of Legal at HateAid, where she advocates to improve the legal framework for those affected from digital violence who are left largely unprotected against violations of their rights on the internet. Ms. Ballon was invited as an expert to the Legal and Digital Committee of the German Bundestag and the European Parliament to

comment on legislative proposals of law enforcement against online hate crimes and platform regulation.

*Abstract*: The Digital Services Act is supposed to harmonise platform regulation in the EU and is announced to be the new constitution for the internet. The input will take a closer look, if the DSA can keep its promises, which rights it will introduce for social media users and how effective they are in order to hold platforms reliable.

### Alexander Verkhovsky

Alexander Verkhovskiy has been a director of SOVA Center for Information and Analysis in Moscow since 2002. Previously he served as vice-president of Panorama Research Center. Verkhovskiy's areas of research are political extremism, nationalism and xenophobia, religion and politics, as well as misuse of anti-extremism policies in contemporary Russia. He authored several books on these issues, and a broad range of media articles and academic publications.

*Abstract*: During his speech he will talk about a specific counter-extremism legal approach to online hate speech, developed in Russia and then accepted and amended by several post-Soviet countries, he will discuss challenges which that approach produces for grassroot activists.

### Steffen Eisentraut

Dr. Steffen Eisentraut is Head of International Affairs at jugendschutz.net, the joint center of the German Federal Government and the federal states tasked with the protection of children on the internet. jugendschutz.net looks closely at dangers and risks in internet services specifically popular among young people and urges providers to design their content in a way that allows children to use the internet free of troubles. Steffen is specifically involved in jugendschutz.net's work within the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), where he is Board Member. Before, he was a lecturer at the University of Marburg and the University of Wuppertal where he conducted research in the fields of sociology of youth and media studies. He completed his doctoral thesis on the subject of "Mobile Interaction of Young People. Towards a Sociology of Smartphone Usage."

# Day 2



## Selma Muhič

Selma Muhič Dizdarevič holds a Ph.D. in public and social policy. She works at the Department of Civil Society Studies at Charles University, Faculty of Humanities. Her main research interests include social exclusion and questions of civil society in regards to minority rights, gender and hate speech. She cooperates actively with non-profit organizations both nationally and internationally. She was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley, California, USA. She is currently a board member of the International Network against Cyber Hate and was the project coordinator of the Re-ACT project.



## Jordy Nijenhuis

Jordy Nijenhuis is a storyteller, campaigner, consultant and trainer. He co-founded Dare to be Grey, an award winning organisation that aims to counter polarisation, is involved in a variety of projects, and trains media professionals from all over the world in (social media) campaigning, storytelling and countering radicalisation, hate speech and disinformation. He believes that media is a powerful tool for behavioural change, and that we need new creative approaches to achieve fundamental change.

*Abstract: He will be speaking about a variety of conspiracy theories, propaganda narratives and the accompanying hate he has encountered through the European Observatory of Online Hate. Ukraine is one case, but also the farmers' protests in the NL.*



## Ksenia Termasina

Ksenia Termasina has been involved in grassroots activism in the field of women's and LGBT+ rights for 8 years, and for the past six months she has been working at the NGO "Feministic Workshop", where she holds the position of community coordinator. Blogs about women's rights in Ukraine and body positivity. Has several publications in Ukrainian feminist magazines: about compulsive heterosexuality, body positivity, sex education in schools, etc. Has moderated a sex-awareness growth group for women and non-binary people for the past two years.

*Abstract: They will talk about gender-based hate speech, the situation with this problem in Ukraine and ways to solve it.*

## Workshop 1 - Gender
*Abstract: Gender-based hate is still largely normalized in our society. In this workshop we will share data points on factors contributing to the normalization of gender hate speech and discuss how sexism, misogyny and other forms of gender-based hate are deeply rooted in (alternative) social media platforms and online incel-culture. How can we prevent this and why is that necessary? It will bring us to the topic of the impact of online hate speech on women's lives and behavior on social and other media, focusing on intersectionality and the case study of Roma women.*

**Elizabeth Cappon**

Elizabeth Cappon (BE) has an MAs in Computational Linguistics (Antwerp University) and she is currently working as a data scientist and developer at Textgain, a company that builds transparent and explainable AI solutions for societal change. Within this company, she researched sexism, misogyny and gender-based hate online using big-data analysis and AI- and machine learning techniques.

**Cordelia Moore**

Cordelia Moore works as a consultant on digital gender-based violence. For LOVE-Storm she works as a trainer on (sexist) hate speech. Through counselling centres, she provides psycho-social and technical support for women affected by cyberstalking. She also trains professionals in working with sexual violence in online spaces.

### Workshop 2 - Gender

*Abstract:* *What is gender-based violence and how does it manifest itself online? What has gender to do with online hate speech and cyber violence? Why is it important to take a gender (and intersectional) perspective on cyber violence? And what is the EU doing to prevent online violence against women? In this workshop participants get a glance on the State of Play on online gender-based violence. The first part of the workshop focuses on the scope and prevalence of online gender-based hate speech and cyber violence in the EU, and insights on its causes and consequences. In the second part of the workshop we will concentrate on the EU dimension of gender based hate speech and cyber violence with a specific focus on the impact of women and girls. Furthermore, we will discover the current initiatives on EU level to combat and prevent online violence against women and girls and introduce recommended actions to be taken in this field at the EU level to enhance gender equality.*

**Paula Thijs**

Dr. Paula Thijs is senior researcher and project leader at Atria Institute on gender equality and women's history. Her research focuses on gender inequality, gender norms and stereotypes, democratic values, socialization, diversity &amp; inclusion, and quantitative methods. At Atria she is involved in (research) projects on gender stereotypes and inequalities in paid and unpaid work, interlinkages between gender inequality and climate change, (online) gender-based violence, and women in politics. Dr. Thijs studied Sociology (BA) and Social and Cultural Sciences (MA) at Radboud University. In 2019 she obtained her PhD in Sociology with a study on trends in cultural conservatism in the Netherlands and Europe. Between 2018 and 2021, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at

the University of Amsterdam where she coordinated a longitudinal study on social inequalities in adolescents' democratic values and political socialization.

**Laura Kaun**

Laura Kaun is the Policy and Campaigns Director at the European Women's Lobby. She is responsible for coordinating and providing strategic direction to EWL's policy and campaigns work. She works to ensure that EWL's policies are sound, its advocacy sharp and its campaigns loud so that, together with its members all over Europe, EWL brings progress to women's rights with a specific focus on combating all violence against women and girls including cyber violence and gender-mainstreaming of digital policies. Laura holds Master's Degree in Gender, Intersectionality and Politics from the Free University of Berlin, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and English Language and Linguistics from the University of Trier and completed a certificate course on Gender & Diversity at the University of Cologne.

**Andrea Cox**

A pedagogue by profession, Andrea Cox worked in the state administration in creating systems in the preparation of Slovakia for accession to the EU, with an emphasis on the pillar of democracy and human rights. She has worked as a lecturer in various areas of public policy and communication, lecturing in the countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Moldova and Georgia). Since 2017, she has been leading the civic association Digital Intelligence, focusing on digital citizenship, fighting online hate speech and promoting education in this area with a focus on children and parents. She believes that safe participation in the digital world promotes freedom, protection of democracy, fundamental human rights and goes hand in hand with personal responsibility.

**Vladimir Simonko**

Vladimir Simonko has been involved in LGBTIQ activism since the early 90s. It has been a challenging, demanding and at the same time highly rewarding journey for him, acting as an expert and trainer in various national and international projects and actively participating in human rights conferences. He is co-founder and Executive Director of the National LGBT rights organization LGL. He was an organizer of the first Eastern European Confere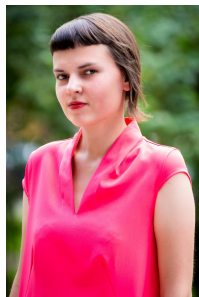nce of ILGA in Palanga in 1994 and the annual ILGA- Europe conference in Vilnius in 2007. Vladimir is also one of the main organizers of the Baltic Pride festival that took place in Vilnius in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022. He was also elected to the ILGA-Europe Executive Board in 2015 and served two consecutive terms.

*Abstract: As a long-term LGBT rights activist and public figure, Vladimir encountered hate speech daily and experienced hate crimes against LGBT community centers. Vladimir applied to law enforcement, sought justice, and supported strategic litigation efforts carried out by LGL. In 2022, a case put forward by LGL was successful: the European Court of Human Rights ruled*

*that Lithuania violated the Convention and did not protect individuals from homophobic hate speech. Vladimir will share his personal story, hate speech incidents, and his strive for justice in Lithuania.*

**Workshop 1 - LGBTQ+**
Abstract: *This workshop will give a short overview of the regulation of hate speech in Hungary (legislative measures, the effect of the narrow interpretation of the Constitutional Court); look into how the provisions are applied in practice (circumstances required by the authorities to start an investigation, statistics); dive into Háttér Society's hate speech related activities (common cases, monitoring, related projects, Report the Homophobia website, etc.); touch upon the prevalence of online LGBTQ hate speech in Hungary (platforms, statistics, etc.); and look at the effect of political discourse on LGBTQ hate speech in Hungary. Moreover, experiences and insights about Lithuanian discourse on social media when it comes to LGBT persons will be discussed, as well as lessons learned while reporting hate speech comments.*

**Egle Kuktoraitė**

Eglė Kuktoraitė joined the National LGBT rights organization LGL in 2014 and assumed the role of Communication Manager. She is responsible for LGL's communication activities, as well as activism, advocacy, and fundraising. Eglė is an expert in inclusive education and has been at the forefront of LGL's activities countering bullying and hate speech in Lithuania. Eglė was one of the organizers of the Baltic Pride festival in Vilnius in 2016, 2019 and 2022. Eglė has been involved in the social media monitoring process since 2017. Since then, she has reported thousands of comments to the social media platforms. According to Eglė, social media reporting is one of the quickest and most gratifying processes to achieve progress in hate speech awareness. Every year, the results of reporting are plain to see in the social media as users in Lithuania are becoming more aware that platforms will not tolerate hate speech.

**Róbert Buzsáki**

Jurist, legal program officer at Háttér Society, Hungary's oldest and largest currently operating LGBTQ organisation. Róbert has experience in various human rights issues, mainly focusing on discrimination, harassment and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, including hate speech and hate crimes.

**Tomer Aldubi**

Tomer is the founder and executive director of Fighting Online Antisemitism, a journalist and theater director (B.A., in Theatre Directing, Tel Aviv University). As the grandson of Holocaust survivors, Tomer's understanding of the profound and devastating effects of antisemitism and racial hatred motivated him to found FOA. Tomer lectures regarding

cyberhate and various methods of monitoring online antisemitism. Tomer previously served as a Jewish Agency Representative in NY, USA (Schenectady JCC, 2015), and as the head of "Israeli Students Combating Antisemitism", an Israeli students' program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Union of Israeli Students (2017-2018).

**Workshop 2 - LGBTQ+**

_Abstract_: _The NGO side will focus on LGBTI+ Hate Speech in Law (European Union law); consequences and challenges for victims; how to combat hate speech; and the Speak out Project. From the IT company side, we will hear about Twitter's new reporting flow and how it aims to better capture the experience of people on the platform while incorporating a symptoms-first method. We will also touch upon Twitter's recent policy developments and discuss the range of practical safety features._

**Sara Soares**
Sara Soares has a Bachelor in Law and a Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratization. Currently is the Project Manager and a Victim Support Technician at ILGA Portugal, where she coordinates the Legal Support Service, that provides legal information related to LGBTI+ issues, and more specifically, with situations of discrimination.
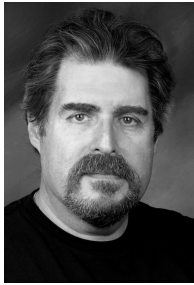
**Júlia Mózer**
Júlia works as EU Public Policy Manager at Twitter, focusing primarily on hate speech and disinformation. Before joining Twitter, she worked as Policy and Communication Officer at CEJI-A Jewish contribution to an inclusive Europe, a Brussels-based NGO that tackles prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. In this role, she focused on hate speech, harassment and online harms as well as on counter-speech and online safety. She developed and delivered training to NGOs, journalists and law enforcement agencies, engaged in policy discussion with social media companies and EU institutions, while managing several EU-funded projects. She also coordinated an EU-wide NGO campaign on hate speech before the last EU elections.

**Valentin Gonzales**
Graduated in journalism from the Complutense University of Madrid, he worked in several newspapers and radio stations in the first years of his professional career. He specialized in Human Rights and began working at Movement Against Intolerance in 1994, as head of communication. In 2000 he assumed responsibility for the creation and management of the organization in Malaga, a position he held together with the international area of the organization. In 2004, after a meeting in Córdoba with founding members of INACH, the incorporation of MCI to this network was consolidated. In these years he has been a consultant to the OSCE, a member of the advisory committee of the

Fundamental Rights Agency for civil society, elected in an assembly in 2014, and has participated as a speaker in hundreds of conferences throughout Europe.

**Jonathan Vick**

Acting Deputy Director for INACH. Is currently devoted to operations at INACH and serves as North American interface for internet industry relations. Responsible for the content development of editorials, articles, position papers, and promotions. Has been a INACH board member for over 10 years. Previously worked for over 15 years for the ADL as Senior Intelligence Analyst, Technology Adviser to the General Counsel and Associate Director of Investigative Technology and Cyberhate Response. Responsible for internet industry relations, institutional technology enhancements, community safety, threat detection, threat profiling and hate mitigation. As a specialist on the technology, business and politics of the internet and connected technologies, has written extensively, created training material and consumer safety tools, worked with internet related companies, law enforcement agencies and government. Has been actively involved in training and experience liaison efforts for emerging technology markets in Latin America and South Africa. He has also worked in online marketing for Hearst Publishing, marketing for Philips Electronics and trade development intelligence for the British Government. A recipient of ADL's Senn/Greenberg Award for Professional Excellence, INACH representative to Twitter's Trust and Safety Council, and a graduate of the Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Communications.