

HATE SPEECH & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ON ONLINE PLATFORMS

*PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS &
INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES*

KEY CONCEPTS

- **Hate Speech → incites violence, hostility, discrimination**
- **Freedom of Information → essential democratic right**
- **Challenge: balance *protection vs. censorship* risks**

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

- **Media literacy for schools & youth**
- **NGO & civil society cooperation**
- **Social media counter-narratives**
- **EU «No Hate Speech» Movement – best practice example**

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- **EU: AVMSD, Digital Services Act – swift removal, transparency**
- **UN: Rabat Plan of Action, UN Hate Speech Strategy**
- **Council of Europe: Rec(2022)16 on hate speech**
- **Comparative:**
 - **Germany – strict removal (NetzDG)**
 - **France – Avia law (modified)**
 - **USA – First Amendment, self-regulation**

ARMENIA: CURRENT SITUATION

- **No specific regulation of internet platforms**
- **Audiovisual Media Law (2020) →
broadcasters and distributors only**
- **Hate speech online addressed via:**
 - **General law (incitement, discrimination)**
 - **Platform self-regulation (Facebook, YouTube)**
 - **NGO & donor-driven projects**

ARMENIA: CHALLENGES

- **Legal gap: no framework for online intermediaries**
- **Cross-border: most content hosted abroad**
- **Limited awareness: few campaigns, low media literacy**
- **Risk: future regulation must avoid censorship**

ARMENIA: OPPORTUNITIES

- **CEPA with EU → gradual approximation to EU standards**
- **Participation in Council of Europe / UNESCO projects**
- **Chance to build a balanced framework from scratch**
- **Use international best practices as guidance**

CONCLUSION

- **Hate speech is a global challenge → *legal + societal response needed***
- **Awareness campaigns are key to prevention**
- **International experience offers tested models**
- **Armenia has a unique opportunity to adopt balanced solutions while preserving freedom of information**

THANK YOU

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