

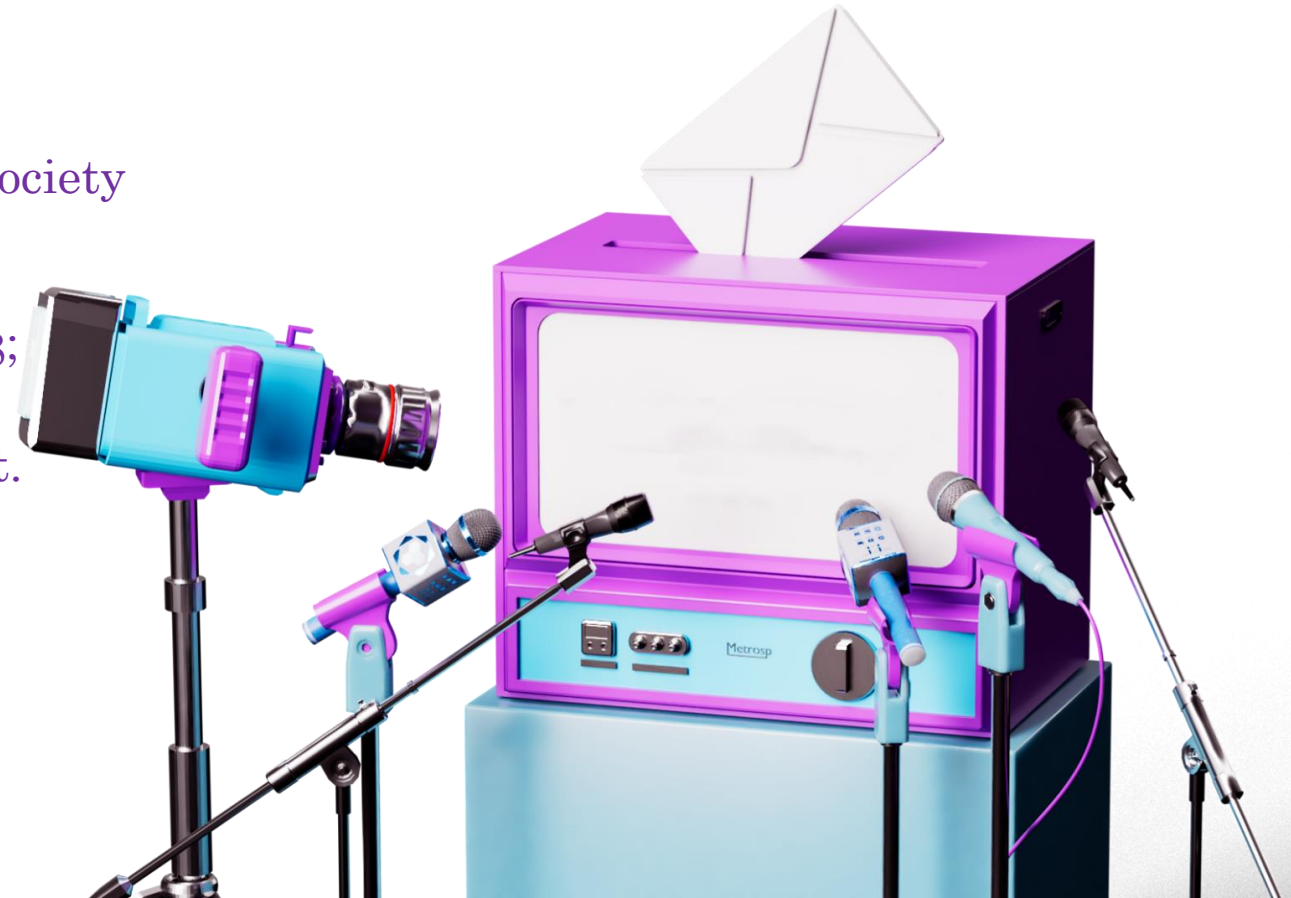
Regulating Hate Speech in Audiovisual Media

Georgian Practice



A Long-Standing Challenge

- Monitoring reports during the pre-election period reflected severe cases of hate speech;
- Subject of self-regulation with no cases reported;
- A topic of discussion with media outlets and civil society organizations;
- ComCom proposed legislative changes in late 2018;
- Requirement under the EU Association Agreement.



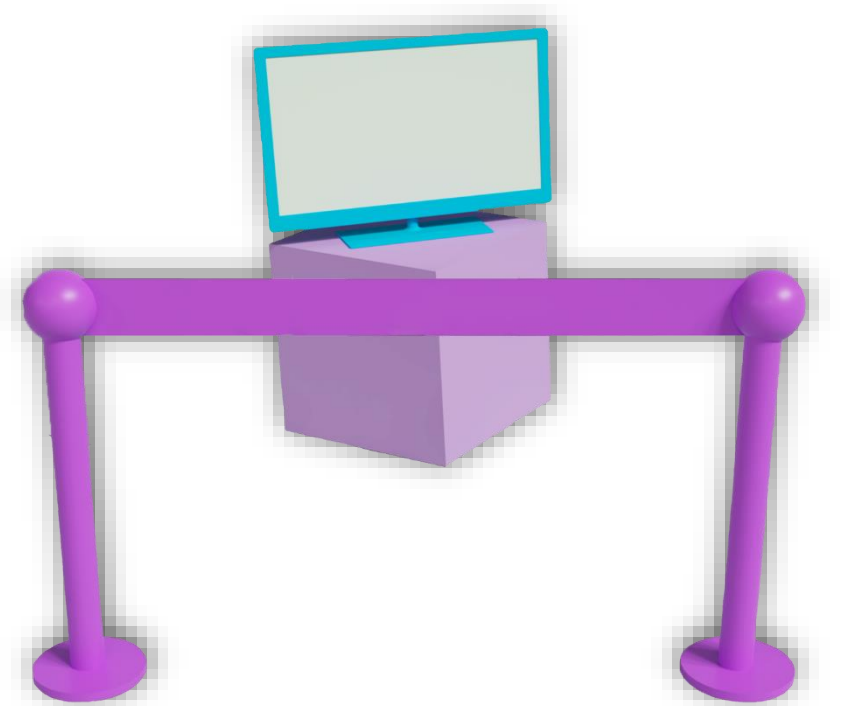
Increase of Hate Speech in Media and Its Impact

- Legislative changes adopted in December 2022;
- ComCom granted direct authority to regulate hate speech in media services;
- Interested parties may appeal to ComCom and the courts;
- Administrative sanctions (warning, fines).



Increase of Hate Speech in Media and Its Impact

Article 55² of Law on Broadcasting “Dissemination of a programme or an advertisement involving inducement to violence or hatred (the language of hatred) against a person or a group of persons on the grounds of his/her or their disability, ethnic or social origin, sex, nationality, race, religion or faith, sexual orientation, skin colour, genetic characteristics, language, political or other opinions, belonging to a national minority, property, place of birth or age shall be prohibited, except when it is necessary considering the context of the programme and there is no intention to disseminate the language of hatred. The programme or the advertisement may not be deemed as containing the language of hatred provided for by this paragraph only due to its abusive or critical content.”



Increase of Hate Speech in Media and Its Impact

- Prohibits the dissemination of programs and advertisements inciting violence or hatred;
- On the grounds of:
 - Disability, ethnic or social origin, sex, nationality, race;
 - Religion or faith, sexual orientation, skin color, language;
 - Political or other opinions, minority status, property, birthplace, age.
- Exception – necessary considering context and no intent to spread hate;
- Critical/abusive content alone does not qualify as hate speech.



Early Practice

Case: Nana Kajaia, Natalia Kajaia and Mariam Gaprindashvili vs Sezoni TV, July 31, 2025

Issue: Alleged incitement of hatred on the bases of sex

Context: Famous tv reporters representing a leading oppositional channel

ComCom Finding:

“Despite the offensive nature of the statements, they do not meet the definition of hate speech, as there is no indication of incitement to, approval of, or encouragement of violence on the basis of sex”



Guidelines for the Implementation of the Article 55²

Adopted in February 2024 55²

- Developed in cooperation with the EU, Broadcasters and Civil Society Organizations;
- Aimed to ensure clear and transparent implementation of the law.



Future Outlook

- Application of existing regulation to online media;
- Building a precedent-based practice through ComCom case decisions;
- Raising public awareness via media literacy initiatives.



Questions?

Thank You!

