



Addressing **hate speech** **in the media:** the role of regulatory authorities and the judiciary

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“Strengthening the judicial expertise on freedom of expression and the media in South East Europe” (JUFREX)

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo* and Croatia

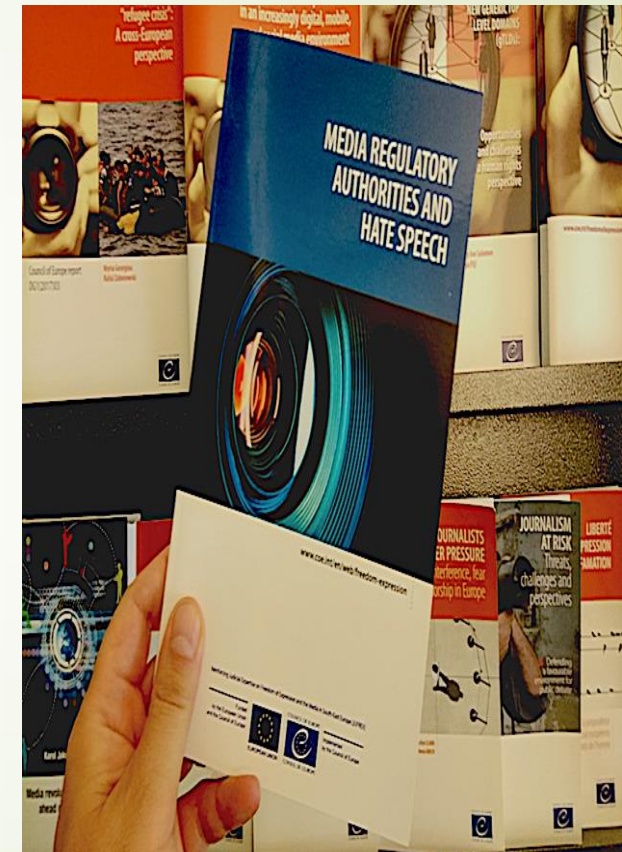
- The aim of publication is to contribute to a wider understanding of the concept of hate speech, what it does and does not constitute, to offer a starting point in terms of providing recommendations and mechanisms for fighting against and preventing it, and to facilitate further efforts and initiatives.
- Dedicated work, initiative, responsiveness and team-work are the characteristics of the crew working on this task which has, yet again, showed close and friendly relationship among colleagues, and resulted in creation of this very valuable publication.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS


Important in establishing and maintaining a healthy media environment is:


- free flow of expression, speech, press and access to information
- editorial independence
- encouraging broadcasters to develop own codes of practice
- existence of independent regulatory body empowered to adopt by-laws and issue sanctions. The legal status of these bodies should be clearly defined in law. Their institutional autonomy and independence should be guaranteed and protected by law.
- strong public broadcasters
- environment that provides possibilities of balance between private and public media in an open market
- training for journalists
- healthy and active involvement of civil society



RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS - continued

IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

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- Accountability – of journalists, media, national regulatory authorities, supra and international organizations, to every single individual person
 - Societies' needs are in danger of derogating from principles of human rights, with democratic processes jeopardized
 - A level of ownership and personal commitment is required, the one that helps all stakeholders engage in rising above the circumstances and working towards a desired goal – that of public good, a good that is based on openness, tolerance, forbearance, liberality, respect for other's rights

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- “If we don't believe in free expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all” – Noam Chomsky
 - „It is frightening to think we could be entering the civil war mode, wherein none of the differences and disagreements can be hashed out in discussion. It is quite possible that there is no resolution to the present situation until one side is thoroughly destroyed as an ideological power and political entity. If that is the case, the inescapable struggle requires that anti-fascist forces clearly identify the enemy and commit to defeating them, whoever they are, whatever it takes. The time of conversations with fascists is over, even if they might be your best friend from high school.“ – Aleksandar Hemon

THANK YOU