

HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
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DROITS DE L'HOMME,
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Hellenic Association for
European Law (HAEL)

e-Conference “EU Values, Diversity and
Intercultural Dialogue: Enhancing the debate”

Combating Hate Speech

Presentation
22 April 2021

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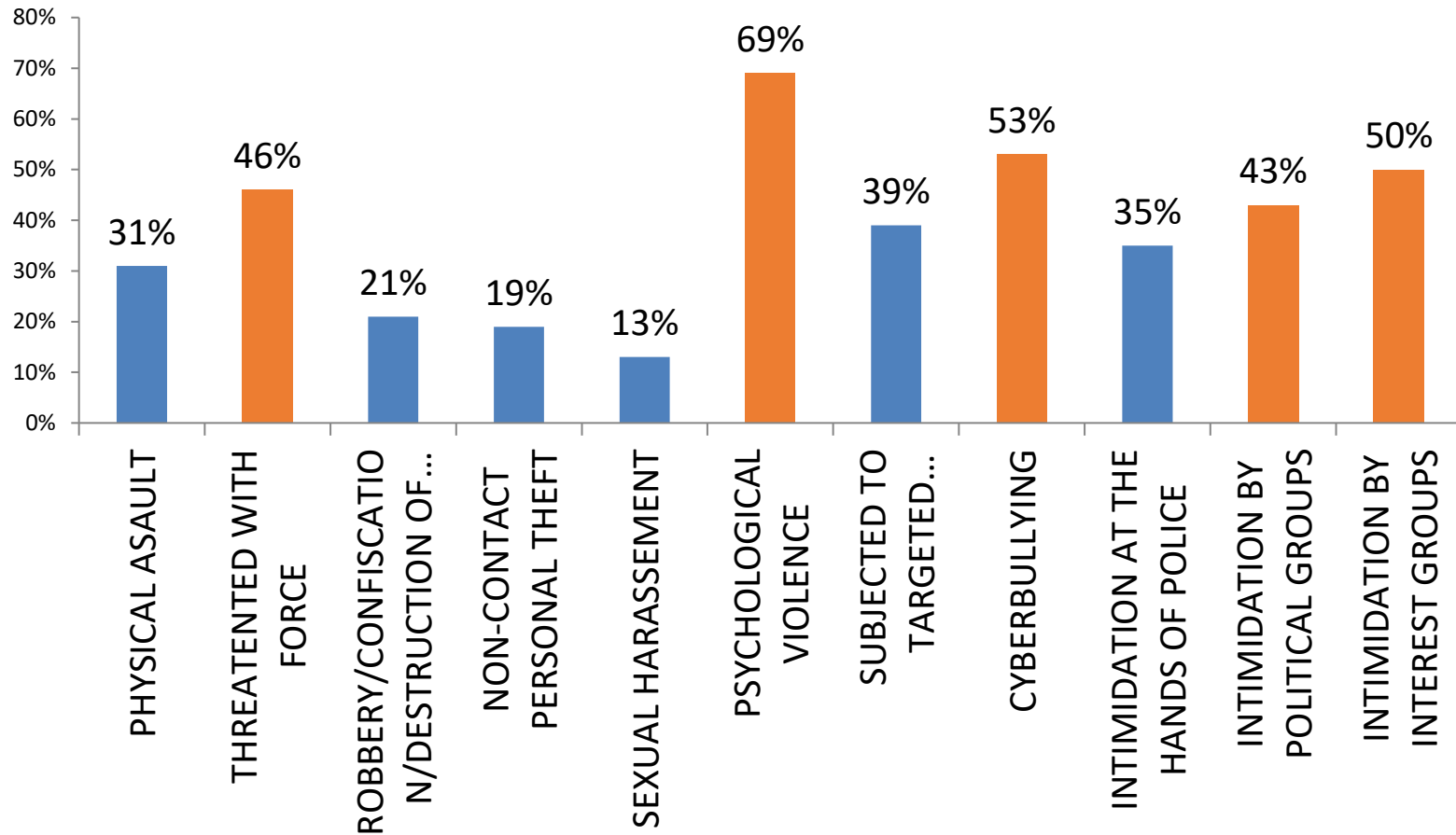


Women are increasingly targeted



Journalists are under pressure

Experiences of unwarranted interference in the last 3 years



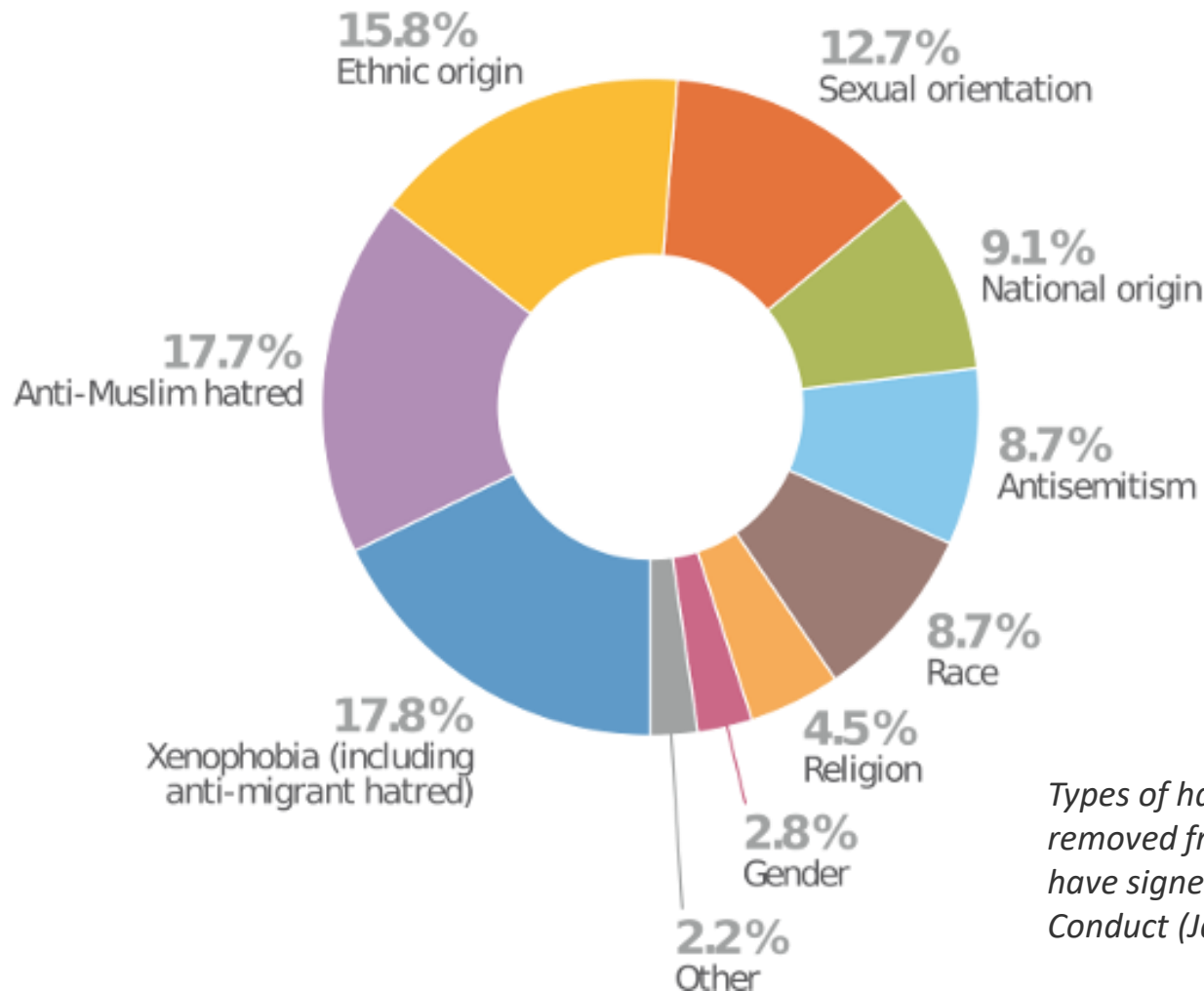
Study: [Journalists under pressure](#)

Minorities are vilified

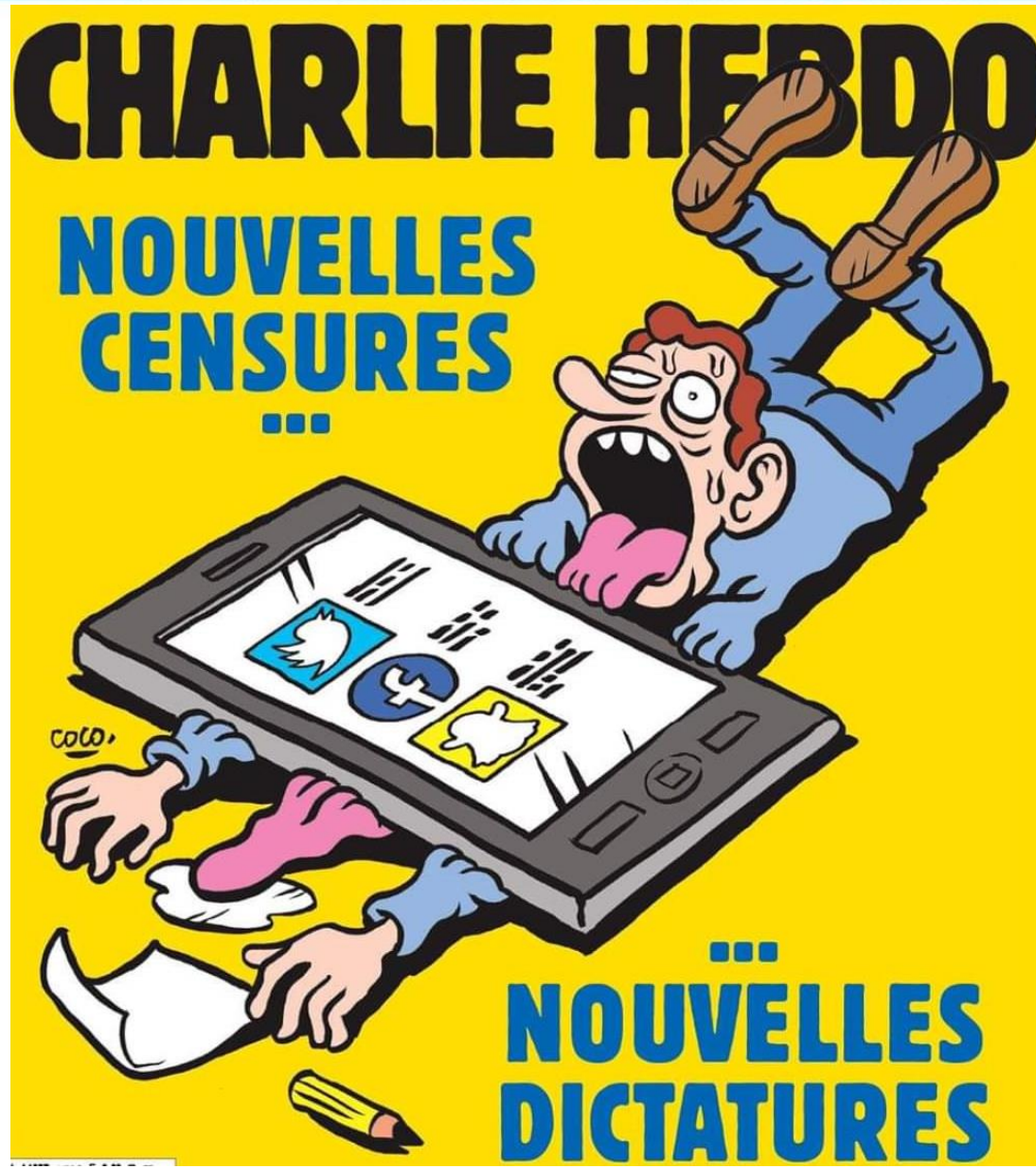
I am not a virus



Hate speech has many faces



Types of hate content removed from platforms that have signed the EU Code of Conduct (January 2018)



Twitter hides Trump tweet for 'glorifying violence'

🕒 29 May 2020



🔗 Share



Source: [BBC](#)

AI curates some content

FACEBOOK Transparency Report

NUDITY
21 million
removals
99,8% by AI

HATE SPEECH
2,5 million
removals
38% by AI

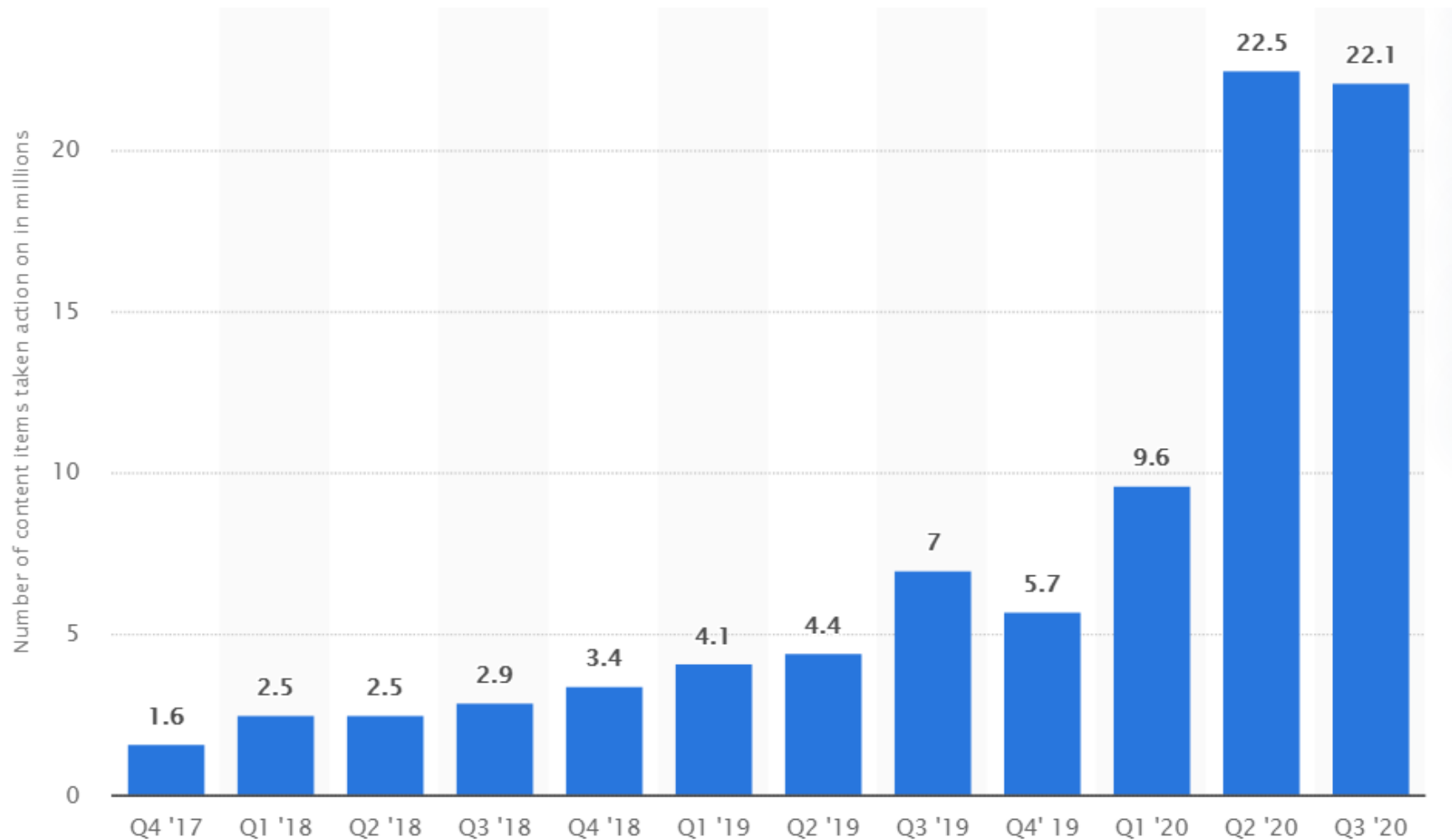
**TERRORIST
CONTENT**
1,9 million
removals
99,5% by AI

**GRAPHIC
VIOLENCE**
3,4 million
removals
85,6% by AI



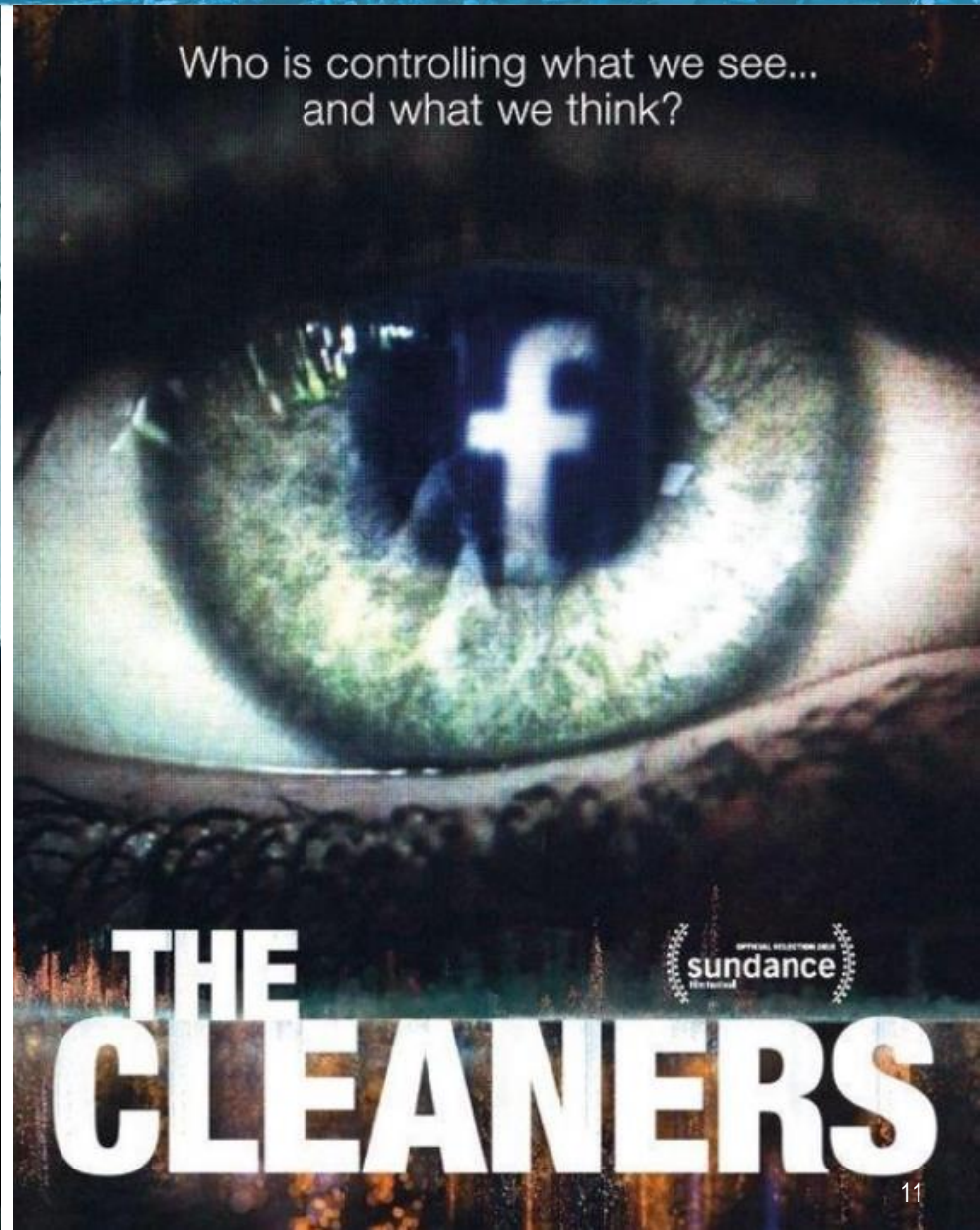
Hate speech curation is booming

FACEBOOK Transparency Report



Reviewing 25,000 posts a day

The moderators become experts at the most violent content out there, **discerning corpses by the type of weapon used in the beheading**



Hate speech reforms are criticised



German online hate speech reform criticised
for allowing 'backdoor' data collection

Source: euractiv.com

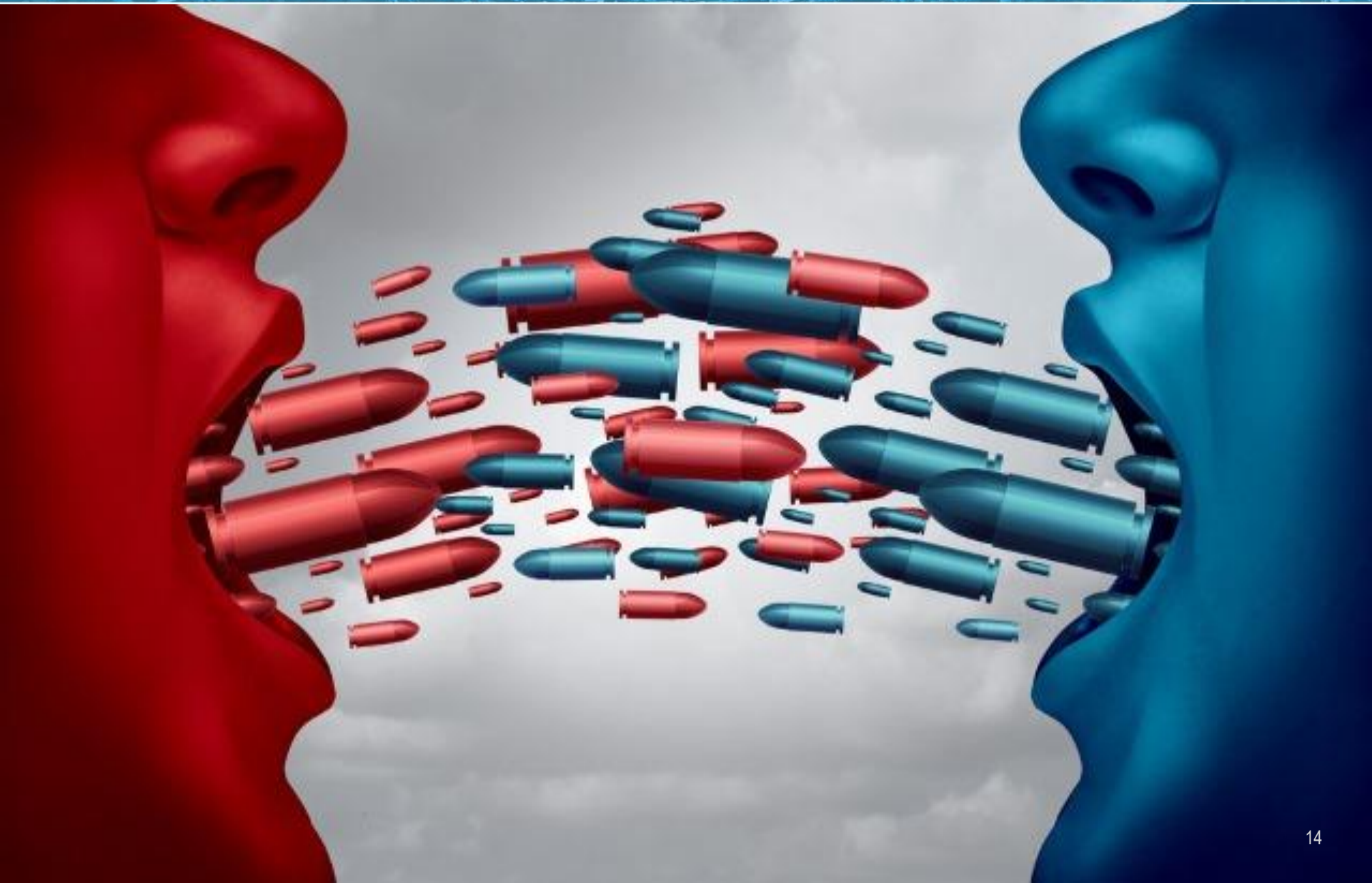
The new world is challenging



AI-powered propaganda, by ratcheting up cognitive manipulation and societal polarization, will increase.

Source: penser-critique.be

How to combat hate speech ?



Restrictions are necessary



- Hate speech proliferates;
- It inhibits individuals and groups;
- Fighting hate speech may involve restrictions;
- Restrictions must be appropriate.



Online environment makes it difficult to assign liability and develop adequate responses:

- ✓ **Hateful contents** may either go ignored or go viral;
- ✓ **Instant publishing** of online platforms allows hate speech to reach millions;
- ✓ **Harmful speech** may also travel across borders and virtual spaces.

Further regulation is a must




Hate speech that passes the threshold of criminal liability should be sanctioned both off- and online.

Regulatory approaches to address hate speech are developed by:

- National authorities;
- The EU (e.g., via the Digital Services Act);
- Internet intermediaries themselves.

All actors should act

- 
- The Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime concerning the **criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature** committed through computer systems;
 - Recommendation regarding the **role and responsibilities of internet intermediaries.**



Expert Committee on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS) is drafting a recommendation to combat hate speech, including:

- a definition of hate speech;
- levels of severity and corresponding online and offline liabilities;
- best practices;
- key actors.

Better protection is expected



Better protection of victims of hate speech requires:

- better strategies and action plans to monitor and analyse hate speech;
- improved national and international coordination.

Expert Committee on Freedom of Expression and Digital Technologies (MSI-DIG) is developing guidance on self-regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms for the restriction or moderation of illegal or harmful content.

Pandemic spins hate speech



The study **“The impact of the sanitary crisis on freedom of expression and media freedom”**, reveals:

- a new wave of hate speech;
- further polarisation of public discourse;
- targeting already marginalised populations;
- targeting “pandemic workers”: journalists, whistle-blowers, human rights defenders, medical and health care professionals.



The book **A Mission to Inform - Journalists at Risk Speak Out:**

- **Reveals the chilling effect** hate speech has on journalists and other media actors;
- **Presents powerful testimonies** of media professionals targeted by hate speech;
- **Emphasises the alarming impact** that hate speech can have on women journalists;
- **Provides recommendations.**



Abuse of hate speech laws can prevent contributions to public debate, intimidating and silencing conflicting opinions – or merely diverse point of views.

Recommendation on the protection of journalism notes:

- malicious use of the law and legal process can become an effective means of pressure of journalists.

- ✓ **More discussion on hate speech** is necessary;
- ✓ **Better Europe-wide cooperation** and more effective solutions are required.

The Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society will address the radical changes in the media and information environment brought on by massive digitalisation (10 - 11 June 2021).

Thanks for your
attention !



www.coe.int

Further resources

www.coe.int/freedomofexpression

www.coe.int/internetgovernance

www.coe.int/dataprotection

www.coe.int/cybercrime

www.coe.int/AI

Facebook Page

Information Society Group

