



COUNCIL OF MEDIA ETHICS
OF MACEDONIA



AGAINST DISCRIMINATION THROUGH GREATER INCLUSION IN THE MEDIA

February 2021

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
PUBLICATION: HATE SPEECH - INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE MEDIA	4
DEBATE: HOW HAS THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS AFFECTED JOURNALISM AND SELF-REGULATION?	6
DEBATE: HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATIVE PRACTICES IN MEDIA REPORTING	9
DEBATE: EDUCATION AND THE MEDIA IN DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION, HATE SPEECH AND STEREOTYPES	14
DEBATE: COOPERATION FOR EFFECTIVE ADDRESSING OF THE PROBLEM WITH HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE MEDIA	18
WORKSHOPS	22

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INTRODUCTION

Promoting professional and ethical journalistic standards and supporting self-regulation in the media contribute to strengthening the fight against discrimination and hate speech in media reporting. Monitoring the use of professional standards in media reporting is one of the key objectives of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia (CMEM), which enables citizens who have identified inconsistencies and errors in journalistic reporting, to appeal against the media that have produced the afore-stated.

The project *“Promoting Inclusiveness and Respecting Human Rights in the Media in North Macedonia”* places a strong focus on raising the awareness and improving the knowledge and skills with respect to the need of dealing with discrimination, disinformation and hate speech in the media. More than 120 representatives from the media, civil society organizations, state institutions, and citizens took part in the four debates and two trainings organized as part of the project. They discussed the relevance of self-regulation and inclusion in the media sphere and the approaches they could use in providing support in the fight against discrimination together. At the trainings, they learned about the approaches for recognizing discriminatory and hate speech in the media, as well as for building strategies for effective action against such practices. The project also assisted in issuing the publication *“Hate speech, international and national legal framework, with a special focus on the media”*, which represents an analysis of the policies for protection and prevention against discrimination and regulation of the media sphere.

This publication summarizes the implemented activities and contains the main conclusions and recommendations resulting from the project *“Promoting Inclusiveness and Respect for Human Rights in the Media in North Macedonia”*, which was implemented by the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia in the period 01.07.2020 - 28.02.2021, with the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

PUBLICATION: HATE SPEECH - INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE MEDIA

In the last two decades, the term “hate speech” has become the dominant concept for denoting various forms of discriminatory expressions, including expressions that incite violence against members of certain groups defined on racial, religious, ethnic or other grounds, expressions that propagate ideas of identity superiority of one group over another, expressions that include gross insults, humiliation, or any other expression of abuse directed at individuals or groups defined on particular identity grounds. The term “hate speech” refers to a number of different acts that may be subject to sanction under administrative, civil or criminal law, and the measures could derive from different regulations (media, equality, discrimination, etc.).

Main conclusions in the publication „Hate Speech, International And National Legal Framework, with a Special Focus on the Media“.

The right to freedom of expression is not unlimited.

Restrictions are provided, as much as the right to freedom of expression allows, in order not to infringe on the rights of others. It is a basic balance between the right to freedom of expression and the right of other people not to be violated by someone’s freedom of expression.

Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination is a good opportunity to initiate cases and activate court instances.

In particular, the provisions regarding the possibility to initiate a lawsuit in a civil procedure, when there are no measures that the institutions should take ex officio.

It is necessary to intensify the efforts for building awareness and capacities among the citizens for recognizing and reacting to hate speech, as well as encouraging a proactive behaviour regarding the reporting of cases of hate speech in the media.

There is a wide range of measures to sanction hate speech.

However, there is no indication that criminal justice has improved its treatment of hate speech. For everyday incidents, it may be necessary to explore the possibilities offered by misdemeanour sanctioning, through real monetary (or other) sanctions, when the context of the incident (perpetrator, danger, influence, etc.) is not sufficient for criminal sanctioning. The practice of sanctioning needs to be improved.

AAVMS and the Ombudsman have limited capabilities for suppressing hate speech in the media.

The Ombudsman has no direct authority to act in relation to specific acts of hate speech in the media, but additional engagement is needed in terms of monitoring and encouraging institutional engagement. AAVMU monitors the work of broadcasters and in that regard there are not enough opportunities to react when there is a need to prevent “hate speech”.

The possibility of filing a misdemeanour charge would have an effect when the Prosecution and the courts would act upon the charges.

Greater proactive behaviour is needed by the Public Prosecutor’s Office regarding the handling of reports of hate speech in the media. The judiciary should follow the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and take it into account when deciding on individual cases, as the case law is extremely limited.



ГОВОР НА ОМРАЗА

МЕЃУНАРОДНА И
НАЦИОНАЛНА ПРАВНА
РАМКА, СО ПОСЕБЕН
ОСВРТ НА МЕДИУМИТЕ

DEBATE: HOW HAS THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS AFFECTED JOURNALISM AND SELF-REGULATION?

Reporters Without Borders, in its Press Freedom Index 2020, concludes that the coming decade will be crucial for the future of journalism, with the Covid-19 pandemic highlighting the many crises associated with freedom of expression and the publishing of credible, diverse and balanced information.

That was precisely the challenge in the work of the CMEM in the past year, when the most common reactions and appeals were those related to the media coverage of the pandemic. The most frequent violation was the breach of Article 1 of the Code of Journalists of Macedonia, which refers to the publication of accurate and verified information.

Journalists faced the risk of going out and reporting, and the challenge was to protect the general public from fake news that spread too quickly and did great harm, especially at the beginning of the crisis, when science and health authorities did not have reliable answers to the virus. The effects of the pandemic on journalism took place mainly on four levels: technical, essential, i.e. on the journalistic content, the psychological and physical fitness of the journalists and their economic condition.

In terms of protection and assistance to the newsrooms in the crisis, there were internal and external mechanisms. The internal mechanisms were those implemented by the media management, aimed at protecting journalists and media workers in terms of health risk and economic and



social assistance, and the external mechanisms, excluding the ones taken by the Government and other departmental institutions, referred to the assistance to media and journalists coming from civil society organizations, international community, citizens, and the corporate sector.

These are some of the highlights from the debate “How did the coronavirus crisis affect journalism and self-regulation?”, held on 27 August 2020.

[See the highlights from the debate](#)



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“The media were called upon to behave professionally and ethically and not to contribute to spreading untruths and creating panic among the public. It was emphasized that information in such cases, according to the Code of Journalists (Article 8), must be free from sensationalism. The media should act in a way that distinguishes them from ordinary transmitters of information and facts and they should exercise their role in alleviating the anxiety of citizens.”

Mirche Adamchevski, President of the Appeals Commission at CMEM

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“At the beginning of the crisis, the newsrooms were not ready to work in a crisis mode caused by a pandemic due to the lack of protocols and previous practice. For journalists, the problem was their personal safety and the security of their loved ones, the violation of workers’ rights, the emotional stress and the reduced access to information from public institutions”.

Dragan Sekulovski, Association of Journalists of Macedonia

“The important sense of teamwork has been lost, which is the basis of journalism. Videos arrived via email, we reported from the office. There was a lack of interaction with the interlocutor in this respect as well. Ministers and officials became more comfortable in their statements and press conferences, because of the lack of live interaction, which is much more effective in revealing the truth. All this has transformed journalism from a dynamic to a sluggish profession, which went in favour of those who want to stay far from the watchful eye of the public.”

Filjana Koka, journalist at MRT

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Blogged...



Newsrooms and the pandemic: pressures and challenges

Martin Petrovski, lawyer and associate of the AJM

After the beginning of the global crisis caused by the pandemic, the media outlets newsrooms, both in the world and in the country, faced numerous challenges. Given the rapid spread of Covid-19, the media leadership was faced with the challenge of making decisions about how to maintain the work of a newsroom whose work is primarily based on contacts with people, even when public health experts and government officials imposed social isolation.

Self-regulation is a basic barrier for unethical reporting in times of crisis

Teofil Blazeovski, journalist

The fight against fake news requires unification of the media community. Joint action by media organizations and experts for short-term and long-term effects of the fight against fake news and other unethical public information is a necessity.



We need journalists like never before

Dejan Andonov, MA, Institute of Communication Studies

The pandemic created a huge need for news and highlighted the importance of professional journalism and access to verified information. However, many untruths have been spreading through online portals and social networks with the same virus speed, which makes it difficult for the society to react properly and deal with the pandemic. Human health depends not only on health care, but also on access to accurate information about coronavirus threats and on the measures for personal protection and protection of their families and the environment.

DEBATE: HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATIVE PRACTICES IN MEDIA REPORTING

The Council for Media Ethics of Macedonia registers hate speech by affirming its biggest mechanism - submitting appeals to the Appeals Commission. However, it also reacts individually, with other professional media organizations, and with the regulatory body - the Agency for Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services, in cases of violation of articles of the Code of Journalists of Macedonia and the occurrence of hate speech and discrimination in the media on various grounds.

This was emphasized by the director of the CMEM Marina Tuneva, at the beginning of the debate “Hate speech and discriminatory practices in media reporting – how far along are we?”, which took place on 28 September 2020.

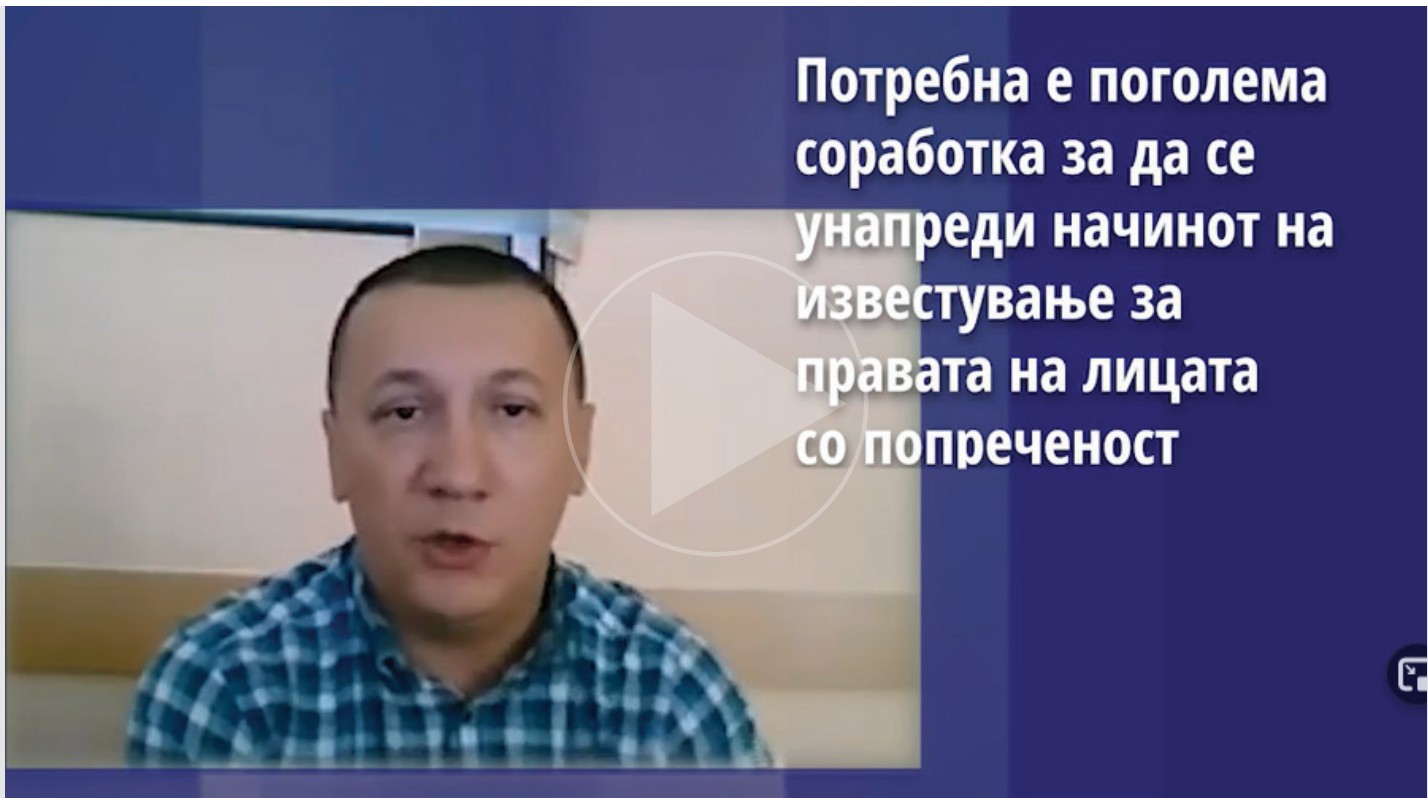
The speakers emphasized that it was evident that hate speech was moving from the media to social media networks, more precisely to the comments on social media networks, where the media publish their content.

The outbreak of the global crisis caused by the coronavirus in 2020, in North Macedonia coincided with the period before the parliamentary elections, and these two topics created a charge of escalating disinformation and hate speech on political and ethnic grounds. However, hate speech on the basis of gender was also on the rise, especially on social media. Women, children, people with disabilities, marginalized and displaced persons, who belong to the category of citizens most affected by the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus crisis remained in the shadow of the coronavirus and the election coverage, which continued in the period after their completion, was the conclusion of the discussions by the participants.



The media, in their basic function to inform, also have the function of reporting that there is hate speech in society. What the media must not do is become a source of hatred themselves, broadcast direct calls for violent action and report unprofessionally in cases when they are reporting about the existence of hate speech or live broadcasts. Everyday speech is full of aggression and behaviour that can cause violence and therefore the media should have a responsibility to the audience that cannot always distinguish between good and bad. The task of the media is to produce news that would oppose hate speech and disinformation that is spread online, said the speakers on the debate.

[See the highlights from the debate](#)



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“During the crisis, the impression of the journalists themselves was that the reports about people with disabilities were scarce and sporadic. Most often, the information related to persons with disabilities referred to the measures taken by the Government in relation to this category of citizens, reactions to the measures taken by citizens, as well as information from civil society organizations on the support provided to persons with disabilities. However, it was mostly about broadcasting news and short reports, without personal stories, in-depth analyses, and statistical data that would show what is the actual situation with this category of citizens.”

Vesna Nikodinoska, Macedonian Institute for Media

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“National law and practice should make a clear distinction between the responsibility of the author of a hate speech statement, on the one hand, and the responsibility of the media and media professionals to contribute to its distribution, as part of their function to present information and ideas on issues of public interest, on the other hand. Any restriction on the freedom of expression should be the result of monitoring that should follow the manner in which the European Court of Human Rights assesses whether or not there is a need to restrict freedom of expression in each individual case, i.e. whether the restriction on the freedom of expression is “prescribed by law, has a legitimate aim and is necessary in a democratic society.”

*Emilija Petreska - Kamenjarova,
Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services*

“We need to open a debate with film producers who produce TV series, where stereotyping roles of men and women are noticed. There are also stereotypes about other vulnerable groups. We are missing the debate with all the actors, all the factors that influence the socialization process.”

Snezhana Trpevska, President of the RESIS Institute

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Blogged...



[Tolerance of hate speech can be an easy flaming spark](#)

Violeta Chadikovska, journalist

The non-sanctioning of hate speech in the country poses a serious challenge to preventing it from spreading. Social media networks and online media have intensified the impact of spreading hate speech and discrimination, at a time when the world is facing a Covid-19 pandemic.

The problems of marginalized people during the corona crisis were lost in the big picture of frightening news

Zoran Andonov, journalist

Few days ago, I met a mother of a child with cerebral palsy, member of an association from Tetovo. She asked me if children with this disease will get anything with the latest measures from the Government. I told her “no, there will be no help provided for people with disabilities”. She sadly looked at me and quietly said: “As before, they have forgotten us completely, they treat us as invisible, we do not exist.”



Ethnic and political reporting on Covid - 19!

Sefer Tahiri, university professor



In recent months, the world, in addition to Covid - 19, is also facing false news, but also political/party instrumentalization of the new situation with the virus. Unfortunately, in the country, journalistic content can be identified in some of the media in which ethnic inclinations and bias are detected!

Promoting cooperation between civil society organizations and the media – the essentials for improved media coverage of persons with disabilities

Vlado Krstovski, MA, NGO “Poraka”[Message]

The role of the media is crucial in shaping public perceptions, while at the same time other actors should support the media in reducing, rather than inciting or spurring, discrimination.



DEBATE: EDUCATION AND THE MEDIA IN DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION, HATE SPEECH AND STEREOTYPES

Ofentimes problems in society arise due to the lack of facts and information about differences, opinions of others, different cultural groups, but it is also a shortcoming in terms of everyday topics and events. The media often lack comprehensive coverage when it comes to issues of public interest. The primary role of the media is to inform, and information means presenting facts. Today, we have fact-checking services and civil society organizations that are reiterating the afore-stated, although, in fact, that is the responsibility of the newsrooms. Of course, journalists and the media have an inalienable right to editorial policy, but there should be no compromise with the facts.

In contrast, media literate citizens would be able to understand the value of news, to recognize the messages that reach them, to build a critical attitude and to make critical judgments when making informed decisions. Media literacy means providing an environment where accurate, comprehensive, timely and fair information is needed. The audience that knows how to recognize such media content would gain more trust and loyalty in the media that publish that content. This, in turn, would lead to higher viewership, online traffic or readability.

Research shows that topics related to the media, their impact and responsible use of social media networks are recognized by students as useful. In order to have sufficient



knowledge and skills to recognize reliable and relevant media information, to use the media and to create media products, it is necessary to include media literacy content in many different subjects in the primary, secondary and higher education.

These topics were discussed at the debate “The role of the media and the education in addressing discrimination and hate speech”, which took place on 21 October 2020.

[See the highlights from the debate](#)



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“Media literate citizens can understand the value of the news, recognize the messages that come to them, and build a critical attitude. Hence, it is necessary to continuously invest in improving the skills of citizens for critical analysis of media content.”

Dejan Andonov, MA, Institute of Communication Studies

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“People are in the so-called “bubbles” because they select where they get their information, and what they will remember, because it corresponds to their previous beliefs. Media literacy is extremely important, and experience shows that it would be best if it is infused through the various teaching content in education.”

Snezhana Trpevska, president of the RESIS Institute

“The audience needs to have enough knowledge to recognize what is good and what is bad, what to listen to and what not to listen to. All this can be achieved if we allocate space in our educational system. Our system needs an in-depth reform, and we have not succeeded in those reforms if we fail to place the media where they should be.”

Naser Miftari, high school teacher

“Think about including media literacy in higher education. Talk with the faculties that build teaching staff from different fields – Faculties of Pedagogy, Philology, Philosophy, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and whose students have to teach in schools after graduation, to talk about how to master media literacy skills during their studies”.

Liljana Pecova Ilieska, member of the Appeals Commission at CMEM

“Despite the influx of new media and technologies, there is an increased illiteracy, media ignorance, from jargon to vulgarities, the presence of insults, gross untruths, twisted facts, arbitrary statements ... The media must play a key role not only in informing, but also in suppressing hate speech, discrimination and stereotypes.”

Jasmina Mironski, journalist and university Professor

“Without the former editorial schools, younger journalists are limited from the very beginning of their careers with respect to getting familiar with the actual experience of what journalism as a profession means.”

Zoran Fidanoski, journalist

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Blogged...



Media and schools are crucial to preventing hate speech, especially on social networks

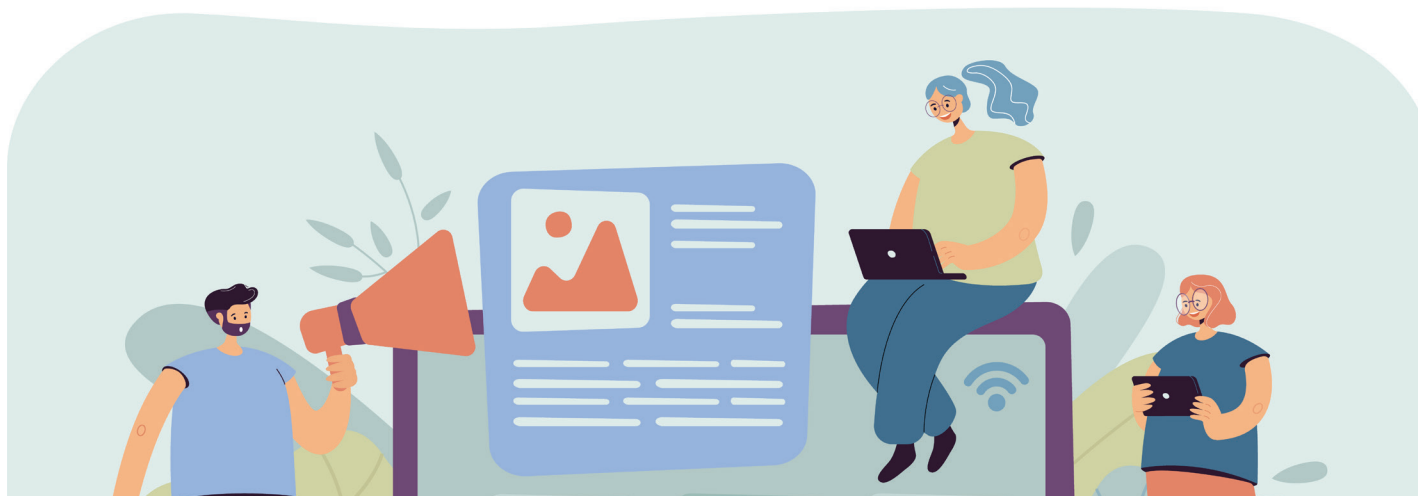
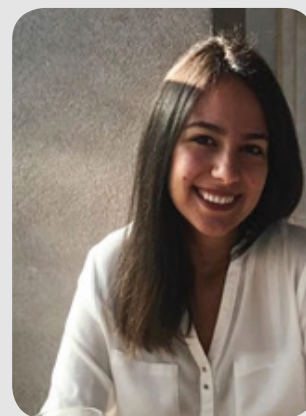
Vane Trajkov, journalist

Do not only publish, pay attention to the comments on social networks after posting the information as well, because they will fall into the background, and the excessive freedom of speech will rise to the surface, with many offensive comments and hate speech that can cause huge consequences.

Education aimed at proper media reporting

Nastasija Stojanovikj, Macedonian Center for Civic Education

Motivated and educated young people, who recognize their roles in society, are the key to positive changes in the present and in the future. We often hear that young people are the future, but in order to be drivers of positive change in the future, they must still be responsible and active citizens today. The most important role in this process is played by the education, and I am glad that this role is being recognized.



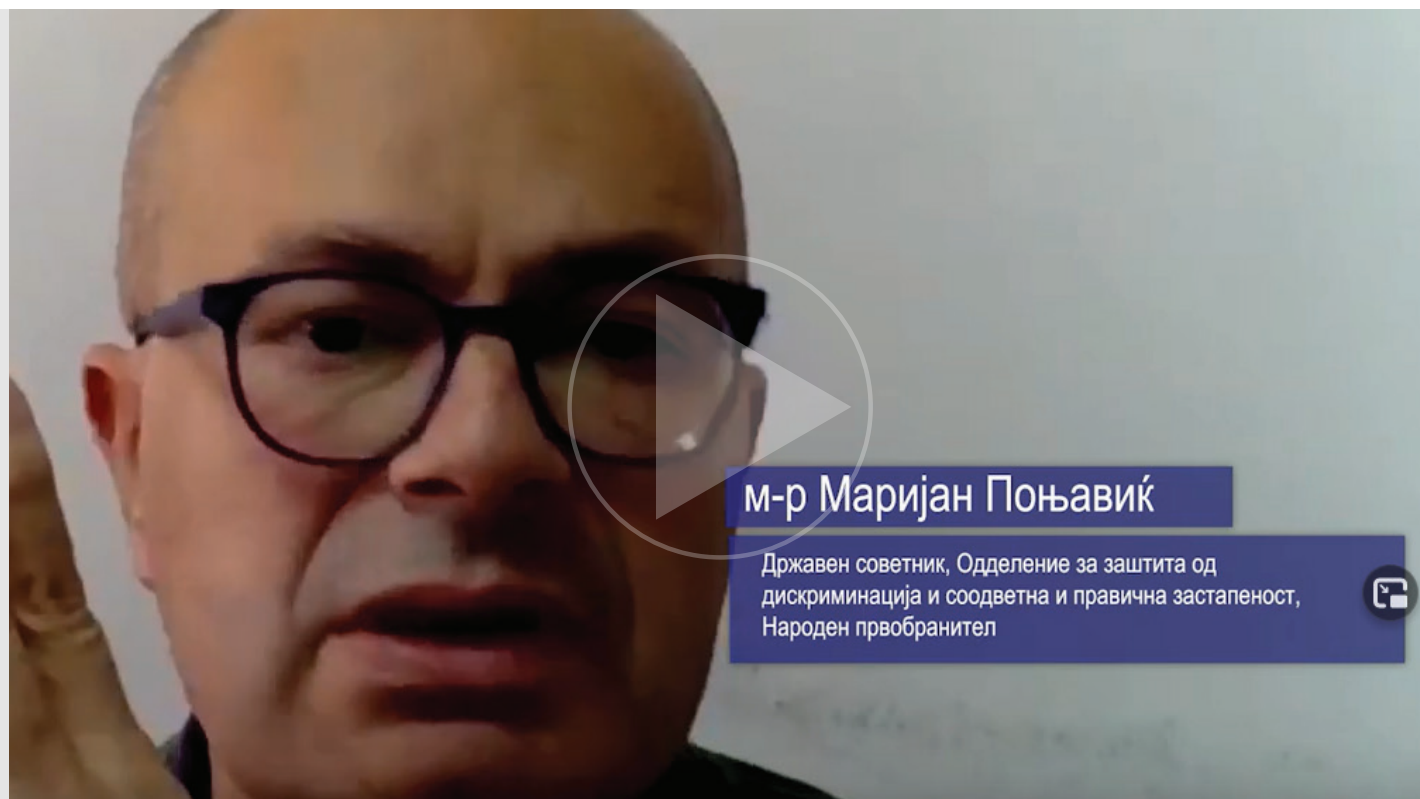
DEBATE: COOPERATION FOR EFFECTIVE ADDRESSING OF THE PROBLEM WITH HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE MEDIA

Dealing with hate speech and discrimination requires cross-sectoral cooperation of all important stakeholders - the Council for Media Ethics in Macedonia (CMEM), the Agency for Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services (AAVMS), the Ombudsman, the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the courts and the police.

There should be a mutual feedback system, through which, for example, the Public Prosecutor's Office, courts and other competent institutions will inform the AAVMS with respect to what actions they have taken upon the requests that the Agency forwards to them for processing. Although there is a legal and institutional framework through which the prevention, monitoring, control and sanctioning of hate speech and hate crime will be performed, the state through its bodies should establish an adequate system for their monitoring and reporting. Victims should be provided with a system of free legal aid and we should work on raising the public awareness of the citizens. Also, trainings for the employees of the police, prosecutor's offices and courts - services that are the most competent and that are directly exposed to these crimes should be continuously conducted.

These are some of the proposals that were raised at the debate "Liaison between the Self-regulatory Body, the Broadcasting Regulator and the Ombudsman in the protection of human rights and the reaction to hate speech in the media", which took place on 20 November 2020.

[See the highlights from the debate](#)



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“Hate speech is not only a violation of journalistic standards, but a criminal act that can cause hate crime. Looking at hate speech in the media as a social problem, it is necessary to involve all actors to combat it, including the instruments of the state, i.e. punishing and sanctioning this phenomenon.”

*Katerina Sinadinovska,
Chairman of the Board of CMEM*

“CMEM is an organization that does not impose penalties, but decisions with moral content and the battle we fight with hate speech and discrimination on various grounds can be united with the Ombudsman’s efforts for cooperation, precisely in terms of human rights violations.”

*Mirche Adamchevski,
President of the CMEM Appeals Commission*

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“Hate speech is one of the important areas where AAVMU can cooperate with CMEM. After the changes of the LAAVMU from 2018, the practice was to send all reports from the supervisions concerning art. 61 and the imposed measures to CMEM for revision by the Appeals Commission, with respect to compliance with the Code of Journalists. The process in such cases is a point where we need to agree on better cooperation, maybe in the sense that when the Agency receives such appeals or ex officio notices where they notice problematic content not to have the AAVMS analyze it, but to immediately forward everything to the CMEM.”

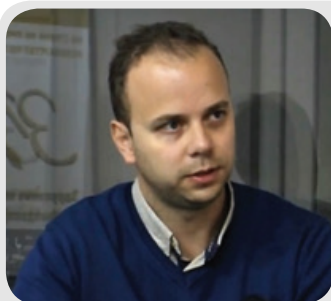
*Emilija Petreska-Kamenjarova,
Agency for Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services*

“In cases where there are elements of hate speech, the Ombudsman is prevented from acting directly, primarily because it is a criminal matter, and also because of the lack of jurisdiction to act on private sector entities that in most cases are perpetrators of hate speech or allow individuals to use their bases to promote hate speech. Here, first and foremost, I would like to focus on the media and portals, where hate speech is most pronounced and where we have repeatedly reacted indirectly, i.e. by submitting a certain request by instructing the CMEM to act in accordance with its competencies.”

*Marijan Ponjavikj,
State Counsellor to the Ombudsman*

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Blogged...



[When the institutions become silent - hate speech dominates](#) *Dragan Sekulovski, director of AJM*

Civil society organizations regularly initiate public debates on the dangers of hate speech and its consequences when it is not sanctioned. Rarely, and perhaps never, are these topics publicly raised by executive or judicial institutions. Why is that?

CMEM, AVMS and the Ombudsman must have a synergy with each other to eradicate hate speech and discrimination

Zoran Fidanoski, journalist, member of the AVMS Council

What are the points on which synergy can be achieved between the electronic media regulator, the self-regulatory body and the Ombudsman? There are several, but it is certain that hate speech and discrimination are the most important.



Penalties, but also media literacy against hate speech

Dejan Andonov, MA, Institute of Communication Studies



Online space and social media have become the central point where young people explore new ideas, express their identity and participate in the greater society. Yet, at the same time, they can be abused by those who want to use them to humiliate, insult and bully. Penal provisions are no longer sufficient to prevent hate speech. We need educational measures to address this social problem.

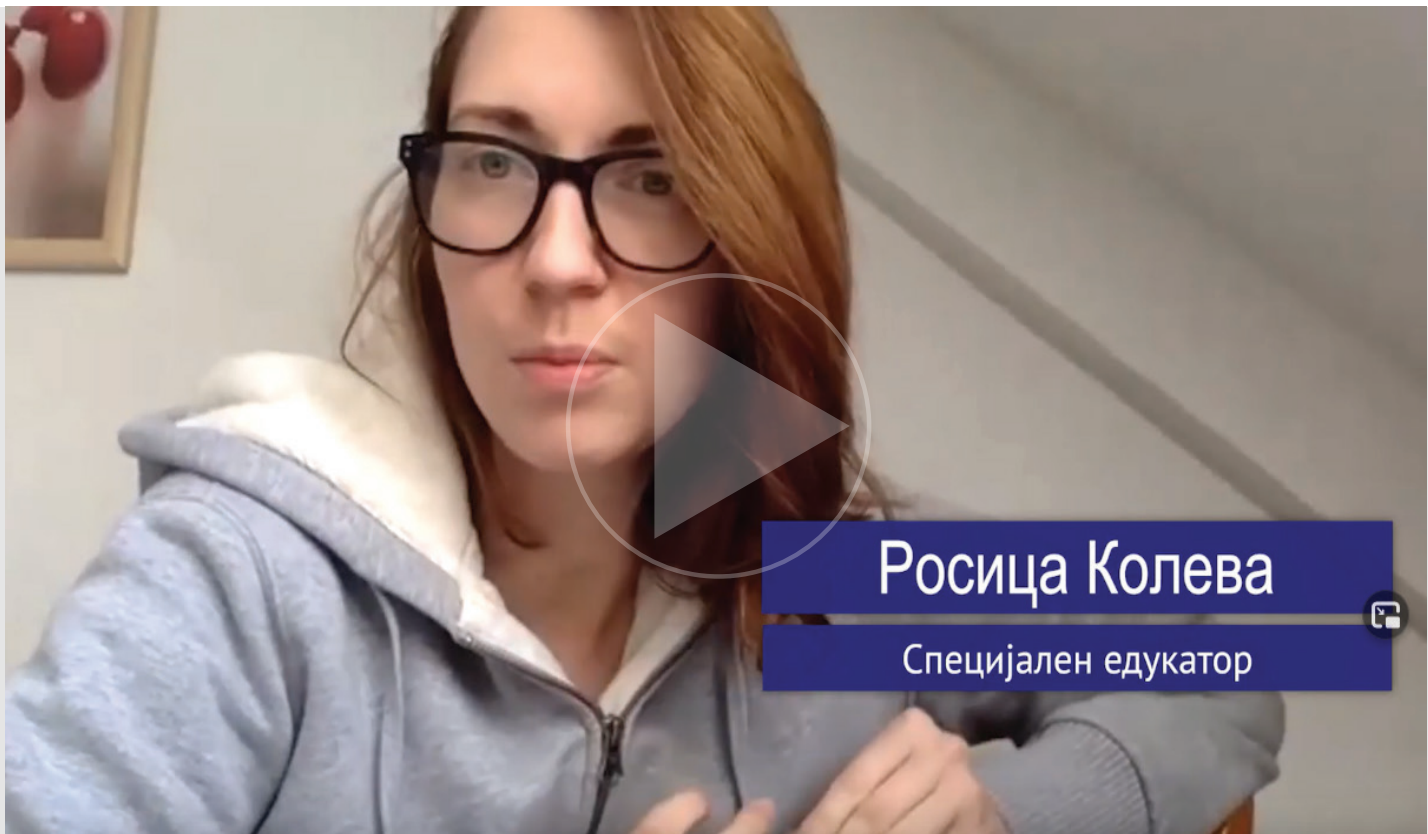


WORKSHOPS

AGAINST STEREOTYPES AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH INCLUSIVE MEDIA REPORTING

Inclusive journalism is a set of value judgments (opinions, beliefs and emotions), editorial policies and reporting practices aimed at ensuring the inclusion of diverse voices in the media sphere. Inclusive journalism should provide a review of the work and specific procedures carried out by journalists, in order to offer a solution and an answer to the inequalities that result from the improper functioning of social structures. This was underlined by Vesna Nikodinoska from the Media Institute of Macedonia, at the workshop “Against stereotypes and discrimination with inclusive media reporting”, which took place on 18 January 2021.

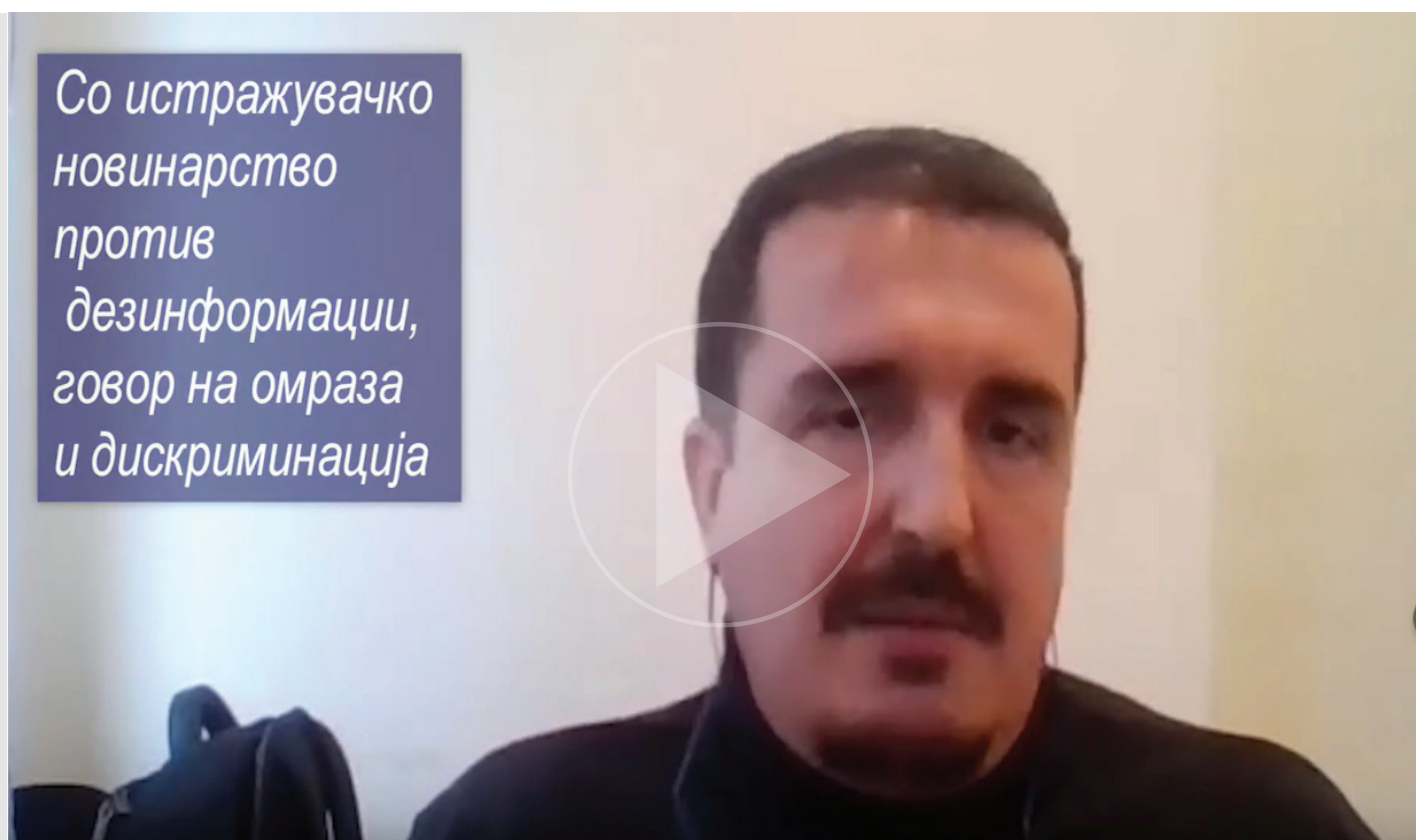
[See the highlights from the workshop](#)



CLEAR AND EXCELLENT REGULATORY POLICY AGAINST HATE SPEECH, DISCRIMINATION AND DISINFORMATION

Ignorance of the risks of speech abuse and the use of hate speech, even on social networks, can cause social tensions that would disrupt public order and peace. This was one of the topics of the workshop “The role of newsrooms in preventing hate speech, discrimination and misinformation” held on 8 February 2021.

[See the highlights from the workshop](#)



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“Inclusive journalism should provide reflective thinking about processes in society, incorporate social, political and cultural pluralism, recognize and accept diversity.”

Vesna Nikodinoska, Media Institute of Macedonia

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“CMEM has a tradition that will continue to reward professional journalism, especially the journalism dedicated to inclusive reporting, because we believe that the media can help overcome this type of problems, by opening such issues to the public. Undoubtedly, we need to work on preparing additional guidelines and standards on how to report on these social groups.”

Marina Tuneva, Executive Director of CMEM

“What can the media do? They should primarily fight against public prejudice that people with disabilities are incompetent and helpless. Media products through an affirmative approach, free from sensationalism, dramatization and compassion, should present them as people who can contribute in all areas of life, thus promoting a more inclusive and, consequently, a more tolerant society.”

Vlado Krstevski, Republic Center for Persons with Intellectual Disability “Poraka” [Message]

“Apparent equality is a category that we often encounter. There will be a balanced presence of men and women in the media, but if you look at them in more detail by sections, you will notice that on the front pages or in the first of main sections - politics, economy, Macedonia and the world, the men are the ones that dominate, while from the middle to the end, where the information is about the culture scene, entertainment and leisure, the vast majority are women. The number is the same, but the essence is far from equal.

Irena Cvetkovikj, Coalition Margini [Margins]

“We are mostly focused on day-to-day politics, which are needed to fill the news or the newspaper and online media portals. But, when it comes to such topics, then the situation is a little more complex, especially if it is a television product in which the whole story should be captured. Especially because the way in which they are presented in the media has a key role in the public perception of a certain group.”

Petar Klincharski, journalist in “360 degrees”

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“Hatred, intolerance, lack of a sense of responsibility for what is said, are much more present today than before. This situation is mirrored from one social media to another, and then to the traditional media. No matter how much you explain regarding what is hate speech versus freedom of expression, and even if you ask the viewers to be careful with respect to the manner in which they are communicating, that will last for only a week or two. Then, things go back to the way they were, and you have to ‘guide’ the communication again.”

Ognjen Janeski, journalist and host of a call-in show

“Disinformation today can be published much easier, since in the past there were filters - editors, and today, every listener, viewer, reader should be their own editor. However, that requires knowledge, literacy, you have to follow everything that happens, to have pre-information, to have context.”

Stole Naumov, editor and host of the call-in show “Stadium” - Radio Kanal 77

“Colleagues moderate all comments on Facebook, YouTube and social media networks and analyze the user comments, especially those that contain insults and abuse. Practically, we are facing a problem with the new generations who publicly, with a name and surname, spread all kinds of information, fake news, and hate speech.”

Dimitar Micev, TV Vis - Strumica

“When there is a lack of clear and prominent editorial policy, which implies the rule of ethical standards, that is the ‘red flag’ that indicates suspicious content. The first rule we all learn is that you should consult both parties. But how is that reflected here? Journalist will ask both parties and present the story from both sides. But, where is the topic, what is the question that we are discussing? Journalists very often do not explain enough to us about the issue at hand. They do not give us enough facts to assess which side is right.”

Santa Argirova, journalist

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“Certain centers of political power may abuse call-in shows to create a certain perception that the voice of the people is for or against a particular topic depending on their interest. Therefore, we should choose topics carefully, because the audience cannot be competent for every opened topic. It is important to detect whether the show itself encourages free opinion of the citizens or enables the enforcement of political party propaganda and organizes political party members to call and support certain views.”

Xhelal Neziri, Center for Investigative Journalism-SCOOP

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Blogged...



Media and people with disabilities - inclusion in the world of exclusivity

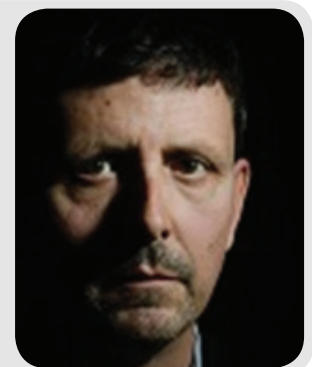
Vesna Ivanovska-Ilievska, journalist

I have written several announcements about the exhibitions of the artist Aferdita Kiki, all published in the culture section of the newspaper “Dnevnik”, where I worked for 17 years. I have always liked her works. But, there was no time to meet her to talk about her work. We met by chance, at an awards ceremony. I have not met a person with such impressive energy for a long time. Strong, but infinitely gentle. As if I had known her all my life. I barely noticed the crutches.

A limited number of politicians and experts speak in the media

Erdem Ahmet, journalist, member of the CMEM Appeals Commission

“Do not do unto others what you do not want done unto you”. If the media had followed this wise Confucian saying, there would have been no content with hate speech, prejudice, discriminatory speech and stereotypes related to diversity. There would be debates and disagreements as before, but the words would be heeded.”





Countering hate speech on social media

Monika Aksentievska, Institute of Communication Studies

Social media has changed the way we communicate, allowing us to access information quickly and easily. Moreover, they have given us a platform where we can freely express and encourage social change. On the other hand, the freedom to be a content creator has revealed some of the negative aspects of social media, such as spreading disinformation and hate speech, online bullying, fraud, etc.

Editors - key factor against hate speech

Arta Tahiri, news editor and the "Road to" TV show on Alsat M

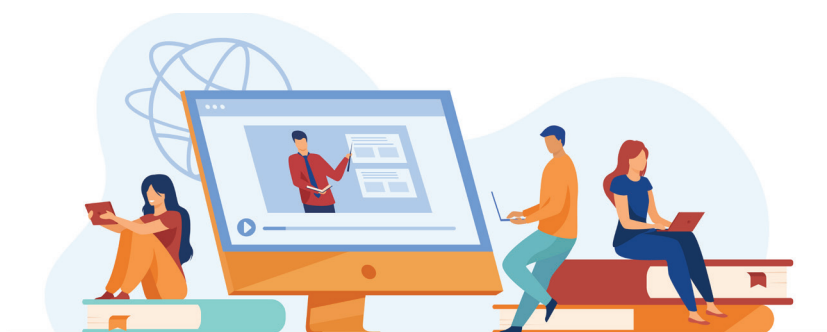
Hate speech is present not only in the online media, popularly known by the public as portals, the Internet and social networks, but also on television and radio stations, in print media, political speeches and other public addresses, public gatherings - rallies, protests and sports competitions.



The spoken word can kill more than everbefore

Dragan Sekulovski, Executive Director of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia

The axiom that "the spoken word can kill" could not be refuted in the philosophical debate in history, and from today's perspective, taking into consideration the information progress and globalization, the risk of abusing freedom of expression and violating human security is greater than ever before. The question that arises today is whether the spoken word can kill more than in the past?





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