

Permanent Mission of Ukraine

Dear Madame Chair, dear distinguished delegates,

The State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience would like to note that effective regulations for our common numerous challenges of hate speech online should include [?] defining what could be classified as hate speech, prevention of it and reaction to it. One of the ways to prevent hate speech online is to encourage better awareness and understanding of other cultures. For that purpose, the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine [?] daily basis, from Friday to Sunday, religious services of numerous Christians and Muslims communities of Ukraine, which are also available online. A special coordination center of national minority broadcasting, coordinates programs about national minorities, as well as use of other media on the minority languages. When it comes to regulatory measures, we need to differentiate between spontaneous individual hate speech and purposefully orchestrated hate speech campaigns, whether they are orchestrated by informal or formal groups, or even large government controlled media campaigns. As it was stated by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, in the 4th Opinion, Russian Government control media, as [?] organization of society against Ukraine, which risk side landing for anyone who not aligns with the majority. These humbled messages are transmitted in the occupied territories of East of Ukraine, Luhansk and Donetsk regions and Crimea. One of the studies on the occupied Crimea, shows that in 2014 and 2017, the Ukrainians were the main target of hate speech, amounting to about 57% of all hate speech online. Crimean Tatars who are predominantly Muslims and individuals of other ethnic identities, who raise voices against Russian occupation of Crimea, repeatedly risk being unjustly labeled by the Russian authorities as terrorist. While this is only one of such famous cases, a number of Ukrainians still have similar tragic scenarios with unjust labels added to their names.

Thank you for your attention!