



Intervention by Kenstroll Breizh

13th Minority Forum

Hate speech, social networks and minorities

November 19, 2020

Point 3: International legislative and institutional frameworks

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Special Rapporteur, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We represent a collective of young Breton people who campaign for the defense of the languages of Brittany as well as for the promotion of Breton culture.

We are part of generations Y and Z, born with the internet as a pervasive reality in our daily lives. We have therefore evolved in an environment where such hate speech is familiar to us, although we are aware that other minorities are more affected by this than us.

Recent terrorist events, which have affected France in particular, have given rise to racist and Islamophobic comments, particularly on social networks, and it is obvious that a legislative system needs to be put in place to respond to them.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are extremely worried about the legislative and executive responses of States, and particularly of the French government, which imposes laws that kill freedom in the name of security and the fight against hatred.

Thus, in France, several laws which have been recently adopted or which are currently under discussion seem to us to threaten the freedoms of opinion and expression, and can be easily abused to silence opposition, as well as minorities.

We are therefore afraid that mass surveillance, which is already well developed, as well as the authoritarian abuses of States, will increase in the name of the fight against such hate speech.

This is why we believe that it is urgent to reflect on the development of a convention on human rights in cyberspace, which would fall under the framework of the human rights mechanisms of the UN

It would be necessary that the contributions of our generations, as well as those of minority youth organizations, be included in the development of such a convention.

To conclude, we believe that it is necessary to set up independent digital rights institutions in order to limit the stranglehold of States, which are often not respectful of minorities, as well as companies and social media platforms that are often governed more by economic interests than social or human ones with respect to these issues.

Thank you.