

Associació Plataforma per la Llengua – Collectiu l'Esbarzer

Thank you Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We believe that addressing hate speech, both online and offline, must form a part of any serious strategy to promote peaceful coexistence in peaceful societies. Institutional [inaudible] platforms and civil society must work together to ensure that neither physical nor digital environments reproduce or exacerbate structural discrimination. For minoritized language communities, public spaces and online platforms should be venues for participation, expression, and intercultural dialogue. Instead, linguistic diversity often becomes a target. Catalan speakers, like many other minority language communities, regularly face harassment, insults, and hate speech for using their own languages in everyday interactions and on social media. These attacks do not occur in isolation, they reinforce longstanding prejudice, delegitimize our identities and create a climate of fear that discourages people from using their languages openly. To address this, states and platforms should recognize language-based hate as a form of discrimination, ensure that reporting, monitoring, and moderation systems understand and protect minorities languages, and support initiatives that empower communities to use their languages safely and comfortably, both in public life and on digital platforms. We therefore encourage the United Nations and its member states to integrate linguistic rights into a broader framework for social cohesion, both offline and online. Protecting minority languages is a key step towards more inclusive, safer, and more peaceful societies. Thank you.