



With the support of the
UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund (GMDF)

Introduction to Standards on Hate Speech

28 January 2025

Open Webinar

8:30 Eastern Time/14:30 Central European Time

International human rights law requires States to prohibit hate speech while at the same time requiring such restrictions on freedom of expression to meet strict requirements. Running in parallel to these legal prohibitions are professional standards for the media, often captured in self- or co-regulatory codes of conduct or the like, which often set much stricter standards for how the media should deal with discriminatory speech. In recent years, the role of powerful private actors, in particular social media platforms, in amplifying discriminatory speech has led to new measures to address the harm this is causing in society. While States do need to address these harms, many States have adopted overly restrictive laws regulating digital speech. This workshop provides an introduction to international freedom of expression standards on hate speech, focusing on legal prohibitions on hate speech, relevant standards on discriminatory speech in professional media codes and best practices in addressing discriminatory speech online. It is intended for lawyers working at the national level and wishing to enhance their understanding of international law standards in these areas, including with a view to bringing national rules more into line with international human rights.

The workshop is held as part of the Centre for Law and Democracy's (CLD's) *Supporting the Establishment of Networks of Media Lawyers Globally* project, funded by the Global Media Defence Fund managed by UNESCO. The project seeks to encourage the creation of and support national-level networks of legal professionals working to advance media freedom and freedom of expression. For more information on this project, please see <https://www.law-democracy.org/live/projects/media-lawyers-networks>.

You can register for this webinar at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qbpTNo2xRGWaQcxiFfnBvQ>

Agenda

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| 08:30 – 08:45 | Introductions and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby Mendel, Executive Director, CLD• [Possibly a UNESCO representative] |
| 08:45 – 09:00 | Prohibitions on Hate Speech under International Human Rights Law <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raphael Vagliano, Legal Officer, CLD |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Professional Media Standards on Discriminatory Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby Mendel, Executive Director, CLD |

09:15 – 09:30

Emerging Standards on Addressing Online Discriminatory Speech

- Andrew Puddephatt, Senior Consultant to UNESCO on Digital Policy

09:30 – 10:00

Questions/Discussion