

# HATE SPEECH

## in the Ukrainian media:

experience of monitoring and training





# **HATE SPEECH IN THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA: experience of monitoring and training**

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The publication presents the results of the initiative on countering hate speech in the Ukrainian media, implemented in 2017 by Odessa Regional Organization of All-Ukrainian NGO ‘Committee of voters of Ukraine’ in cooperation with partners with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. The basis of the publication is the results of hate speech monitoring in the Ukrainian media — the main findings are in text format and in the form of infographic, as well as a practical part. The practical component of the monitoring results are ten emblematic cases that reveal the specifics of hate speech in the media regarding specific objects and its impact on the radicalization of sentiments in society. The training block of the initiative reflects the experience of implementation of the educational and practical program on counteracting hate speech in the media, in particular — the results of five mini-initiatives of journalists on hate speech detection and counteraction in various spheres.

*For a wider use of the publication in the international environment, full text and infographic translation into English is provided.*

This publication was developed within the framework of the project “Hate speech in Ukrainian mass media: identification and countering” implemented by Odessa regional organization of All-Ukrainian NGO “Committee of Voters of Ukraine”, with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not engage the responsibility or necessarily reflect official position of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.



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## OPENING REMARKS

Hate speech, which is produced or broadcast from public officials by the media has a huge influence on the formation of the information space and the radicalization of the mood in the society. The first thing that journalistic community needs in this context is training and education on issues of avoiding hate speech in publications. It is also necessity to have a wide open debate on such an unpopular subject and the formation of a clear common position on the inadmissibility of any manifestations of hate speech in the media. These are the main conclusions of the discussions that took place in December 2017 in the framework of the initiative “Hate speech in the media: identification and resistance”.

Discussions were held on the basis of monitoring of the Ukrainian media, which found (confirmed) the main problems of using hate speech in the publications of various media. The aim of the study was not blaming a particular media of the use of hate speech, but maximum practical demonstration of the negative impact of hate speech and warning of the representatives of the media from its use. Priority of the study was not to show a set of dry statistics regarding the use by the media of hate speech (although it also exists in the form of infographics), but to describe its use and effect in the form of specific practical cases.

Hate speech is typical not only for media, but the media itself have the greatest impact. On the other hand, the media could become providers and take on the mission and set the tone of the purification of our communication and information content from hate speech. But, first and foremost, such problems must be understood. Most importantly, our task is to raise the issue of hate speech in the media on the agenda, to awaken the first conscious impulse within the journalistic community that this issue needs to be addressed.

*Authors*

# HATE SPEECH IN THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA: RESULTS OF MONITORING

## 1. PROBLEM

In modern conditions, one of the most powerful channels to broadcast hate speech are the media and social networks. "Getting used to their work and perceiving it as an everyday activity, personnel of the media — journalists and editors — often can underestimate the impact that the results of their work to the audience. Meanwhile, stream by media of certain thoughts, statements, or look at a certain way legitimize them."<sup>1</sup> Though the problem of hate speech exists for a long time, today it is particularly dangerous — over the speed of its spread on the Internet and the rapid escalation into more severe forms. In addition, most importantly hate speech from publications in the media very quickly radicalizes and goes outside.

## 2. RELEVANCE

In the twenty-first century, the international community is united in its determination to overcome the use of hate speech as a very negative and dangerous phenomenon. On 21 March 2017, on the occasion of the International day for the elimination of racial discrimination, the UN high Commissioner for Human Rights called on states to strengthen the combat against hate speech and crimes committed on grounds of hatred:

*"States should enact legislation expressly prohibiting the manifestation of racist hate speech, including dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination and threats or incitement to violence. It's not an attack on free speech, suppression of contradictory ideas or criticism, but a recognition that the right to freedom of expression carries special duties and responsibilities".<sup>2</sup>*

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1 Maksym Butkevych, Project "Without borders" of the Center "Social action". Lighting ethnicity and migration: Hate speech and other pitfalls.

2 Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 2017. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21407>

During 2016-2017 years, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in the annual reports on the state of observance of rights and freedoms of people and citizens in Ukraine stressed that in a society negative trends in relation to manifestations of xenophobia, religious, national and racial intolerance, and the use of hate speech are growing. During 2016, the Commissioner for Human Rights opened 18 proceedings on the facts of the spread of hate speech by the domestic media, officials of bodies of state power and local self-government and separate radical organizations. Accordingly, for 2017 (as of 12.12.2017), the subject of the reaction of the Commissioner for Human Rights were already 28 such cases.

Special attention in this context deserve the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the elimination of racial discrimination, adopted on the twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Ukraine on 23 August 2016<sup>3</sup>. The Committee expressed its concern at the reported increase in racial hatred and discriminatory remarks in public discourse, including public and political figures, the media, particularly the Internet and at rallies aimed primarily at minorities, such as Roma, stateless and refugees. The Committee recommended that Ukraine adopt appropriate measures for the condemnation and prevention of racial hatred and discriminatory remarks in public discourse, including from public figures.

Among other comments the Committee expressed its concern about reports that some nationalist organizations such as "Right sector", "Civil corp "Azov" and "Social-national Assembly", develop activities which could be construed as incitement to racial hatred and propaganda. In addition, the Committee expressed concern that such organizations are responsible for violence against persons belonging to minorities, and not always hold accountable.

### 3. TERMINOLOGY

In the study, as a basis was taken the definition proposed by well-known international human rights organization ARTICLE 19, which works in the sphere of protection of freedom of speech and combating various forms of discrimination: *"Hate speech is any expression that is offensive, degrading, that*

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<sup>3</sup> [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en)



*has the purpose of intimidation, harassment and (or) which incites violence, hatred or discrimination against groups defined by a certain set of characteristics.*<sup>4</sup>

## 4. METHODOLOGY

For the purposes of the study, we used an adapted methodology developed by Russian informational-analytic center "SOVA"<sup>5</sup>. This approach (classification of types of hate speech) has been developed for the use in former USSR countries and implemented in numerous projects in analyzing the application of hate speech analytical centers of Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and other countries. At the same time, with the aim of measuring not only quantitative indicators of the use of hate speech of the media, but also providing estimates of extent and volume of use, method was used to assign scores and coefficients developed by the initiative group "Journalists for tolerance" (Belarus)<sup>6</sup>.

The combination of these tools (classification IAC "SOVA" and the evaluation system of the initiative group "Journalists for tolerance") has allowed not only to quantify the manifestations of hate speech, but to analyze the scope and degree of public danger of the use of hate speech and its impact on various levels. An important aspect of monitoring is the stipulation about subjectivity. Note that the identify of hate speech facts is highly subjective and depends on the "human factor". Accordingly, the experts who monitor the content of the media were invited to put ourselves in the shoes of a potential object of hate speech.

## 5. CONTENT OF THE MONITORING

To perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of occurrence of hate speech in the media, two level media — national and local (regional) were chosen<sup>7</sup>. The selection of media was carried out taking into account the level of influence of the media, as well as considering research from media behavior of the population.

4 <https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/3548/ARTICLE-19-policy-on-prohibition-to-incitement.pdf>

5 <http://www.sova-center.ru/>

6 <http://gaypress.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Itogi-monitoringa-re-d.docx>

7 Using the example of Odessa region.

In general, the object of the study was the news content of ten Ukrainian media — 4 TV channels, 4 online editions, 2 newspapers<sup>8</sup>. News content of all media was studied for one year in the period of 01/08/2016 — 01/08/2017. The long study period provided the opportunity to explore trends in the use of hate speech from the media, given social and political events that took place during the specified period.

Additionally, regarding the identified objects or the use of hate speech was used other available content of the Ukrainian media (keywords search), and comments in the online editions and publications in social networks. In addition to the study of media content, additional information was obtained from the national Ombudsman, and used the available public statistics of law enforcement bodies of Ukraine, reports of international organizations (particularly the UN Monitoring mission on human rights in Ukraine).

## 6. PROBLEMS OF LEGISLATIVE REGULATION

Ukrainian legislation does not contain clear criteria for determining and identification the manifestations of hate speech in the information and public space. The term hate speech is missing in the national legislation. Individual provisions of legislative acts are aimed at preventing and addressing discrimination and incitement to hatred on any grounds. There is unresolved question of legislative regulation of bringing to responsibility for the spread of hate speech. Also, hate speech, both from the point of view of national legislation and from the point of view of its practical application, has minimal danger to the public, which does not correspond to the actual state of the spread of this dangerous phenomenon.

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights repeatedly in the annual reports has highlighted that the article 161 of the Criminal code of Ukraine is not an effective mean of counteraction to hate speech. Its application is burdened by the wording of the offence and the fact that the opening of criminal proceeding on signs of violation of this article is possible only in a private prosecution<sup>9</sup>. That is, the criminal proceeding in the form of private

8 TV channels: "1+1" ("TSN Tyzhden"), "Inter" ("Podrobnosti Nedeli"), "Pershyi miskyi" ("Pidsumky tyzhnia"), "7 kanal" ("Itogi nedeli with E. Krylatova"). The online edition "Obozrevatel", "Segodnya", "048", "Dumskaya" (daily news content). Newspapers "Odesskyi Vestnik", "AIF" (weekly issues).

9 <http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/page/secretariat/docs/presentations/&page=3>

prosecution may be initiated by an investigator or prosecutor only on the basis of statements of a victim, and not in the own initiative.

According to the statistics on registered criminal offences and the results of their pre-trial investigation the Prosecutor General of Ukraine for the first nine months of 2017 <sup>10</sup>opened 37 criminal proceedings regarding crimes motivated by racial, national or religious intolerance and only 2 proceedings were completed by the public prosecution in court.<sup>11</sup>

One of the positive achievements of the state policy in the field of counteraction to manifestations of hate speech can be the changes of 2016 of the law of Ukraine "On television and radio broadcasting". In particular, were strengthened the powers of the National Council on television and radio broadcasting in the field of combating hate speech — were granted the right to impose fines on broadcasters and program service providers for violation of sectoral legislation in parallel with the warning.

In addition, in 2015 a number of domestic media organizations established an Independent Media Council<sup>12</sup>. This constant public monitoring and advisory body that was created with the purpose of establishment of high professional standards of journalism and for the objective consideration of controversial issues and situations arising in the information space of Ukraine. The Council is considering a dispute regarding non-compliance with the media legislation, international standards of information coverage in the media, and violations of journalistic ethics. Independent media Council was founded by five leading public media organizations: "Media Law Institute" (since April 2016 — "Center for democracy and rule of law"), "Institute of Mass Information", "Internews-Ukraine", "Telekritika" (since April, 2016 NGO "Detector Media") and "Foundation "Suspilnist" and consists of 15 members.

Individual attention should gain the national strategy in the field of human rights and the actions Plan for the implementation of the National strategy in the field of human rights for the period up to 2020, which contain provi-

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/stst2011.html?\\_m=fslib&\\_t=fsfile&\\_c=download&file\\_id=203442](http://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/stst2011.html?_m=fslib&_t=fsfile&_c=download&file_id=203442)

<sup>11</sup> It should be noted that this wording does not reflect exclusively a crime on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, but consider them.

<sup>12</sup> <http://mediarada.org.ua/>

sions on combating hate speech. At the same time, the level of implementation of both documents is quite low. Also, it is necessary to stress that in Ukraine there is still no public educational and outreach program in the area of combating hate speech.

## 7. THE AMOUNT OF HATE SPEECH

Recorded high level of use of hate speech by the Ukrainian media — mostly by online publications, the medium by the TV channels, least of all hate speech is in print media. Hate speech is typical equally for both national publications and local press<sup>13</sup>. A significant concern is "leakage" of hate speech from media publications to social networks, with increasing severity, as well as the direct or indirect impact of hate speech to the radicalization in the society and provoking conflicts<sup>14</sup>.

## 8. THE SEVERITY OF HATE SPEECH

Most documented cases of hate speech in the media refer to the soft hate speech. Most often it is the creation of negative image of certain groups in society or statements about moral deficiencies of a group; the reference group or its members in a humiliating or offensive context; direct or veiled statement that one group creates inconvenience in the existence of another. The medium hate speech is uncommon in the prosecution of a certain group in a negative impact on society or the state; an allegation of criminality of a particular territorial or ethnic group, and the assertion of its inferiority. There were recorded some manifestations of tough hate speech, like, direct or implicit calls to violence, incitement to discrimination.

## 9. THE EFFECT OF CITATION

According to the monitoring, a significant part of the use of hate speech is not in journalistic words, but in quotations of speeches or statements of politicians and officials. Thus, we are talking about the inability or unwillingness of journalists to be critical of their own stereotypes and external sources of expert commentaries, speeches, materials from other publications, research

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<sup>13</sup> A detailed analysis of quantitative monitoring results, see the infographics at the end of the report.

<sup>14</sup> Examples of these developments are disclosed in 10 practical case studies, which are attached to the report.

results, and the like. Presenting the position of a public person, expressed in terms hate speech and not giving own judgment or comments — media becomes a channel which broadcasts message of others and thus provides a platform for the spread of prejudice and hostility.

*For example, the edition "Arguments and facts. Ukraine" in the publication "Migrants on the way out: How the world, Europe and Ukraine will resolve the issues of refugees" quotes the leader of the Radical party of Ukraine Oleg Lyashko: "Now they also want us to have refugees as Syrians in Germany, and those to commit daily acts of terrorism and rape our women. And all that for no visas regime, which, by and large, the majority of Ukrainians do not need."<sup>15</sup>*

## 10. THE PROBLEM OF HEADLINES

To attract attention, many journalists and editions are using the loud and colorful provocative headlines and illustrations (photos). As shown by the monitoring results, about 60% of the publications, hate speech (all or most of it) is contained in headline complex. At the same time, this trend may indicate a significant potential of educational and awareness-raising activities for journalists and editors in the media regarding avoidance of this approach to the preparation of the publication.

Some examples of headlines structures of the edition "Obozrevatel":

***"In spite of vata": Kyiv volunteer showed new photos of a patriotic re-pair.<sup>16</sup>***

***"It was done by separs" in Kiev an unknown stabbed a soldier of the OUN.<sup>17</sup>***

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.aif.ua/politic/world/migranty\\_na\\_vyhod\\_kak\\_mir\\_evropa\\_i\\_ukraina\\_budut\\_reshat\\_voprosy\\_bezhencev](http://www.aif.ua/politic/world/migranty_na_vyhod_kak_mir_evropa_i_ukraina_budut_reshat_voprosy_bezhencev)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/kiyany/life/06723-nazlo-vate-kiyevskij-volonter-pokazal-novyye-foto-patrioticheskogo-remonta.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/kiyany/crime/50186-eto-separyi-sdelali-v-kieve-neizvestnyj-udaryl-nozhom-bojtsa-oun--opublikovanyi-video.htm>

***"This redneck wants no viza regime?" Ukrainians nose was rightly rubbed in it*<sup>18</sup>**

***"Procession of vatahead idiots": the network has angered by anti-Ukrainian rally in Kiev.*<sup>19</sup>**

There have been examples when the media headlines with hate speech did aggravate the conflicts in society. So, in July 2016, the Central city library in Dnipro unilaterally refused to provide premises for the Festival of equality through negative headlines in the media. The problem arose only through the use of a vulgar headline about the conduct of gay parade in Dnipro. The article itself contained the announcement of the events planned in the framework of the Festival of equality without any distortion or misrepresentation.

## 11. DISCLOSURE OF ETHNICITY

Many media publications specify the ethnicity of the suspects, if they belong to ethnic minorities (although, as a rule, for the crime committed by Ukrainian or Russian ethnicity is not specified). Such actions lead to the criminalization of representatives of the entire ethnic groups in the mass consciousness, primarily the Roma, and immigrants from the Caucasus. Sometimes, as a generalization, we are talking about a whole social group (most often "migrants", "illegal immigrants"), which is associated with crime, thus criminalizing it.

Some examples of publications of the edition "048":

***Georgians started shooting on Varnenska Str. (PHOTO)*<sup>20</sup>**

***Near Odessa titushkas — Chechens blocked the village council (VIDEO)*<sup>21</sup>**

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/society/21756-eto-byidlo-hochet-bezviz-ukraintsev-upreknuli-v-zasorenii-ulits.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/kiyany/life/35986-shestvie-vatnogolovih-idiotov-set-vozmutil-antiukrainskij-miting-v-kieve.htm>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1463270>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1470903>

***In Odessa a Caucasian, who opened a car and took a bag was video-taped (VIDEO)***<sup>22</sup>

## 12. USE OF INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL NETWORKS

In many cases, social networks are used as the primary and only source of information data from which is not verifiable. Therefore, without checking the messages from the pages of officials, politicians, military experts, public figures, or even ordinary users of social networks are published. As a rule, such information is accepted and published with the existing hate speech, which sometimes has a fairly rigid form and calls to violence or discrimination against certain groups of people.

For example, the edition "Obozrevatel" rebroadcasts a number of publications, publications of bloggers and other users of the social networks that tell who of the Pro-Russian activists were found in social networks and how they should be treated. Mostly, the objects of these "investigations" were students, often with information about a person and photos.

***"Kick out": in social networking there was "spotted" a separatist from "DNR", roaming Ukrainian territory. Published photos.***<sup>23</sup>

***"I love DNR": the network has talked about the 16-year-old fan of the "Republic" with a Ukrainian passport. Published photos***<sup>24</sup>

***"V\*tka from Donetsk": the network has revealed a student of the Institute of the Ministry of interior, praising "DNR"***<sup>25</sup>

## 13. OBJECTS OF HATE SPEECH

In modern languages of Ukrainian context, objects of hate speech became the groups that most often differ by territorial origin, political and social

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1416680>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/crime/59082-gnat-metloj-v-sotssetyah-zasekli-separatista-dnr-shatayuschegosya-po-territorii-ukrainyi.htm>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/society/03746-lyublyu-dnr-v-seti-rasskazali-o-16-letnej-poklonnitse-respubliki-s-ukrainskim-pasportom--opublikovanyi-foto.htm>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/crime/64027-vtka-iz-donetska-v-seti-vyichislili-studentku-instituta-mvd-proslavlyayuschuyu-dnr.htm>

views, ethnicity and gender identity. The greatest number of hate speech (given its severity), was aimed at Pro-Russian supporters and Russians, as well as national minorities (mostly Roma and immigrants from the Caucasus), the residents of Donbass, internally displaced persons, migrants, members of the LGBT community.

In a medium form hate speech is present when we are talking about different persons according to gender (mainly women), people with special needs, drug addicts, people without permanent place of residence, representatives of certain professions. Journalists often use incorrect words such as "invalids," "homeless," "addicts," or focus on their status in a negative context, talking about criminal actions involving such people.

Bright "complex" example of hate speech may be an article in publication "ZN. UA" as of 13 December 2016. The article title contains hate speech of several categories — "Ukrainians the most hate drug addicts, alcoholics, Gypsies and homosexuals".<sup>26</sup> In addition, to illustrate the article the corresponding picture with the discriminatory signature: "Tolerance of Ukrainians in any case does not apply to Gypsies." is given. At the same time, in the very article we are talking about the results of research about whom most Ukrainians would not like to see among their neighbors.

### 13.1. HATE SPEECH IN THE CONTEXT OF RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

Russian-Ukrainian relations (including Pro-Russian and Pro-Ukrainian supporters, the Russians and Ukrainians, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow and Kyiv Patriarchate) account for the largest number of reported hate speech. The media continue to use words such as "separatists", "separ", "vatniks", "vata", "Russian world", "Russists", "adherents of the Russian world", "putinists", "collaborators", "Colorados", "Crimnashists", "sovki", "Muscovites", "orcs", "ukroyi", "banderovets", "banderlogy", "junta", "vishivatnyky", "maydanutye" and others. In some media there are even sections (tags) called "Separatism".

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<sup>26</sup> [https://zn.ua/UKRAINE/ukraincy-bolshe-vsego-nenavidyat-narkomanov-alkogolikov-cygan-i-gomoseksualov-269117\\_.html](https://zn.ua/UKRAINE/ukraincy-bolshe-vsego-nenavidyat-narkomanov-alkogolikov-cygan-i-gomoseksualov-269117_.html)



In many cases, these lexical items were placed primarily in headline complex materials. Such their use demonstrates not only the revitalization of manipulation technologies (e.g., attract the attention of readers to the material), but also intimidation and threat, enhance the image of the enemy and the like.

The use of such words and excessive emotionality of journalistic materials not only create a negative image of a particular social (political) group and contributes to its delegitimization in the society, but also can deepen the split of society in Ukraine. Also worrisome is that journalists create the image of the Russian people as enemies. This is also an identification of Russians with Russian President Putin and the Russians mentioning in a negative context.

***The alcohol breath and the face of lighter color: French soldier spoke with "the Russian world"*<sup>27</sup>**

***The Day of the volunteer, Odessa patriots with the "shooting" detained theoretical separatists*<sup>28</sup>**

***In Odessa beaten up "vatniki" were detained moving on the separatist vehicle(VIDEO)*<sup>29</sup>**

***50 shades of faith: a priest from Kharkiv region turned out to be a pervert and a separatist*<sup>30</sup>**

## **13.2. HATE SPEECH AGAINST THE RESIDENTS OF DONBAS, CRIMEA AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.**

The annexation of Crimea and the military actions in Donbas have created new objects of hate speech in Ukraine, residents of Donbas (of certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions not controlled by the Government), the inhabitants of the occupied Crimea and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/curious/24583-peregar-i-litso-tsveta-prikurivatelya-frantsuzskij-soldat-zagovoril-s-russkim-mirom.htm>

<sup>28</sup> <http://dumskaya.net/news/chinovniki-v-pamyat-o-pogibshih-dobrovol'tcah-voz-069702/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1646454>

<sup>30</sup> [https://ru.tsn.ua/vypusky/tsn\\_tyzhden/vypusk-tsn-tizhden-za-5-marta-2017-goda-816780.html](https://ru.tsn.ua/vypusky/tsn_tyzhden/vypusk-tsn-tizhden-za-5-marta-2017-goda-816780.html)

First, we can talk about trend reporting on the life of people who live in the temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine and incorrect specification of these territories. In addition, in the media there are such words as "Crymnash" and the like as offensive naming of the persons who reside on the temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine. Speaking more detailed on internally displaced persons, often in the texts the word "refugee" is used instead of legally justifiable "internally displaced persons". Besides, there is a negative field, which covers the life of displaced persons — usually they are remembered in certain criminal actions.

***"Let it be Negroes, but not the ones from Donetsk": the realtor shocked Ukrainian journalist.***<sup>31</sup>

***Luhansk IDPs — crooks have lured more than two million hryvnias from citizens***<sup>32</sup>

***In Kharkov "tourist" from Donbass "cleaned" apartments under the guise of gas man***<sup>33</sup>

### 13.3. HATE SPEECH IN INTERETHNICAL FIELD

One of the areas of the use of hate speech in the Ukrainian information space is the promotion of inter-ethnic hostility, aimed at the incitement of conflicts concerning national minorities and vulnerable groups. The object in this context is the ethnic groups in relation to which journalists sometimes allow to use of negative-evaluative characteristics, to hang the "enemy" labels (primarily they are Gypsies and Caucasians). The most striking example of hate speech against the Roma became anti Roma information campaign in August — September 2016, after the tragic incident with the murder of a local girl and the following Roma pogroms in the village of Loshchynivka of Odesa region. In their materials the journalists, in particular, indicate the nationality of a suspect (in most cases without a court order a victim is referred to as

31 <https://www.obozrevatel.com/kiyany/life/07518-pust-i-negryi-tolko-ne-donetskie-rieltor-shokiroval-ukrainskogo-zhurnalista.htm>

32 <https://www.segodnya.ua/criminal/lugansk-ye-pereselency-moshenniki-vymanili-u-grazhdan-bolee-dvuh-millionov-griven-964957.html>

33 <http://www.segodnya.ua/regions/kharkov/v-harkove-turist-iz-donbassa-obchishchal-kvartiry-pod-vidom-gazovshchika-758270.html>

murderer and rapist); use offensive and stereotypical name "Gypsy"; counter Roma community to local residents or other nationalities.

Regarding hate speech in relation to migrants, the most common is improper use of the word "illegals" instead of the recommended by international human rights organizations, term "undocumented migrants" and the criminalization of this group.

***In Zakarpattia illegal immigrants from Africa were detained with shooting<sup>34</sup>***

### 13.4. LGBT COMMUNITY AS THE OBJECT OF HATE SPEECH.

Much of the hate speech against members of the LGBT community are concerned the media coverage of public events of this community (or with its participation) — such as equality Marches, festivals of queer culture and gay pride. Significantly, the march of equality in many of the media was limited and presented only as gay pride parades. Accordingly, even thus was formed the appropriate attitude — because one thing is a parade (fun, festivities) or pride (in translation from English — the pride, respect). As the individual aspect should highlighted hate speech, which was retranslated with the position of some confessions.

***The position of the Church: the sins that will not bear the earth. On Sunday in Kyiv a parade of sexual minorities was held<sup>35</sup>***

At the same time, it is necessary to note the position of solidarity and support of Prides from the offices of some media. For example, the edition "Dumska-ya" not only tolerantly covered the issue of the Odessa pride, but issued a statement of support.

***"OdessaPride": we are against violence and threats, we want to ensure the safety of our citizens! "Dumska" officially solidarates with the fes-***

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.segodnya.ua/regions/lvov/na-zakarpate-so-strelboy-zaderzhali-nelegalov-iz-afriki-781639.html>

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.aif.ua/society/people/poziciya\\_cerkvi\\_grehi\\_kotorye\\_ne\\_vyneset\\_zemlya](http://www.aif.ua/society/people/poziciya_cerkvi_grehi_kotorye_ne_vyneset_zemlya)

**tival "OdessaPride" and encourages colleagues to do the same. We are also members! We are the citizens!"<sup>36</sup>**

Also a striking example is the video story "1+1" regarding the Equality March in Kyiv, which in a balanced way highlights two opposing thoughts and directly condemns the use of violence against opponents and discrimination<sup>37</sup>

## 14. THE IMPACT OF THE COMMENTS

The opportunity to comment on the publication in mass media requires the edition to have effective strategy of moderation of readers' comments, since the comments can contain hate speech. As shown by the results of the monitoring, there are various approaches to solution of this problem: — the rejection of the comments; — providing the opportunity to comment in social networks; — moderation of comments (carefully — every comment; random — in case of complaints of readers; mixed — attracting users); — no moderation.

The conclusions of the monitoring show that in the context of contemporary socio-political conditions, the lack of an effective strategy of moderation of readers' comments can lead to the active use of hate speech, even in the case of balanced coverage of information from the side of the edition. If main publishing still has hate speech, the readers' comments always have more rigid form of hate speech. But hate speech not only breeds aggression and anger, but can also push for correspondent aggressive actions and many commentaries call for them (including calls for physical violence).

**Example 1.** Publication "The separatist, wanted for murder was caught in Odesa".<sup>38</sup>

**Comments:** Vata, show at least one normal one of your! It is logical that the cattle idea is entirely supported by marginals. But at least one intelligent person for representation needs for so many years you should have got a hold of. The same bullish and narcomania people...

<sup>36</sup> <http://dumskaya.net/news/odessaprayd-my-protiv-nasiliya-i-ugroz-my-trebue-061327/>

<sup>37</sup> [https://ru.tsn.ua/vypusky/tsn\\_tyzhden/vypusk-tsn-tizhden-za-18-iyunya-2017-goda-880220.html](https://ru.tsn.ua/vypusky/tsn_tyzhden/vypusk-tsn-tizhden-za-18-iyunya-2017-goda-880220.html)

<sup>38</sup> <http://dumskaya.net/news/v-odesse-poymali-separatista-razyskivaemogo-za-u-071099/>

**Example 2.** Publication "Next to Odesa special forces "give nightmare" to Vietnamese illegal migrants".<sup>39</sup>

**Comments:** it was high time to conduct a sweep of illegal immigrants. Moreover, they do not pay taxes for their activities and their activity is criminal! Counterfeiting, smuggling, drugs, currency manipulation, human trafficking, etc.!!!! And it's not just Vietnamese....

**Example 3. Publication** "OSCE calls on the Ukrainian authorities to provide compensation to the families whose property suffered during pogroms in Loshchynivka".<sup>40</sup>

**Comments:** the Roma should thank the Almighty that they carried their feet away.... However, 99% of the Gypsies is a people's parasite. Their occupation is drug trafficking, theft, buying stolen goods, smuggling. Let me, in this case be deemed a Nazi, but our planet Earth, will absolutely lose nothing if tomorrow Roma will simply disappear.

## 15. THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- active efforts in the field of combating hate speech in media reports of state authorities, active civil society and conscious position of the owners and creative teams of the media;
- introduction to the legal acts the concept of hate speech and the responsibility for its use, and also related legislative innovations on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations and the Council of Europe;
- development of clear criteria for the qualification of hate speech in the media;
- support activity of self-regulatory bodies, media and maintaining systematic monitoring of manifestations of hate speech (including the use of digital technology in real-time);
- extensive training and outreach activities of the state, NGOs, and international organizations (both at the level of professional journalism and at educational institutions).

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1599315>

<sup>40</sup> <http://dumskaya.net/news/obse-prizyvaet-ukrainskie-vlasti-obespechit-komp-062245/>



## RESULTS OF MONITORING THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA

# HATE SPEECH

Recorded: **1838** facts of hate speech



- «1+1»
- «Inter»
- «Pershyi miskiy»
- «7 kanal»



- «Obozrevatel»
- «Segodnya»
- «048»
- «Dumskaya»



- «Odesskyi vestnyk»
- «AiF»

### MEDIA



01.08.2016 – 01.08.2017

- More than 250 TV issues.
- More than 30000 online publications.
- More than 100 issues of newspapers.



### CONTENT

#### USE OF HATE SPEECH



- 65% - NATIONAL MEDIA
- 35% - LOCAL MEDIA



- 86% - ONLINE MEDIA
- 12% - TV CHANNELS
- 2% - NEWSPAPERS

#### AVERAGE USE OF HATE SPEECH



- Each 18th online publication contained hate speech



- Each weekly newscast contained hate speech



- Every sixth issue of newspapers contained hate speech



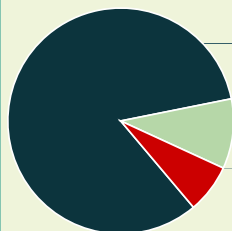
## RESULTS OF MONITORING THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA



# HATE SPEECH

The most alarming 1064 Russian-Ukrainian relations

### Types of hate speech



- 83% - SOFT
- 10% - TOUGH
- 7% - MEDIUM



- Civil activists and supporters:  
Pro-Ukrainian - 5,6 %  
Pro-Russian - 36,3%



- CITIZENS:  
Ukrainians - 1,5%  
Russians (Russia) - 38,9%



- CHURCH:  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchat - 1%  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate, Russian Orthodox Church - 4%



### Objects of hate speech

- Russian-Ukrainian relations – 57.8%
- National, ethnical minorities – 8.4%
- Roma – 4.6%
- Homeless people – 4.2%
- Persons with disabilities – 3.9%
- Women – 3.6%
- Residents of Donbas, Crimeans – 2.7%
- Drug- and alcohol-addicted persons – 2.3%
- Representatives of LGBT community – 1.5%
- Migrants, refugees – 1.5%
- IDPs – 1.3%
- Priests, religious persons – 1.1%

## PRACTICAL CASES OF HATE SPEECH IN THE MEDIA

### 1. "UKROPY" AND "VATNYKY": WHERE HATE SPEECH CAN LEAD TO?

The use of "hate speech" to political opponents, opposition politicians, NGOs and activists, only reinforces the confrontation in the society and creates a threat to freedom of speech and pluralism of opinions.

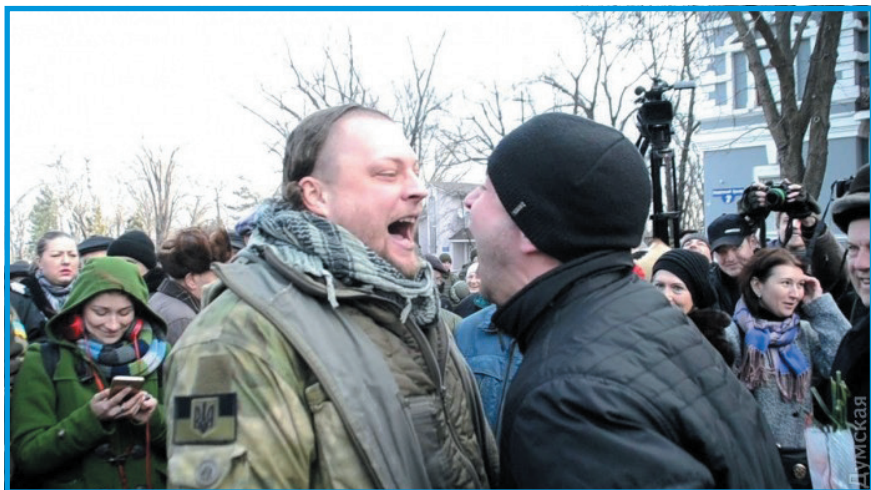


Photo by Dumskaya

Starting from 2013-2014, Ukrainian politicians, public figures and the media increasingly began to use the "hate speech" against the supporters of federalization of Ukraine and opponents of European integration, as well as against their opponents. Some media even structured manual of the latest statements against political opponents (the collection contains more than 30 statements against the supporters of the unity of Ukraine as well as against their political opponents)<sup>41</sup>:

**Ukropy, ukry** — derogatory name of Ukrainians and supporters of the unity of Ukraine, used in Russian propaganda.

41 [https://24tv.ua/ukropi\\_vatniki\\_ta\\_shhe\\_30\\_novitnih\\_sliv\\_n563072](https://24tv.ua/ukropi_vatniki_ta_shhe_30_novitnih_sliv_n563072)



**Vatnyky** — Russians and Ukrainians who actively support the idea of "Russian world" and the greatness of the Soviet past. The name comes from the warm clothing of the Soviet people. The assemblage of vatnyks is called "vata".

**"Russian world"** — the idea of restoring Russian centered influence at all the territory of the former Soviet Union.

**Vyshyvatnyky** — the antipode of vatnyks, they are addicted to "sharovarschyna".

**Colorado** — supporters of Ukraine's federalization and separatism who wear St. George's ribbon.

**Separs** — residents of Ukraine who support the separation of Eastern and Southern regions of the country. In particular, the name Separs is attributed to the residents of Luhansk and Donetsk region, who actively support the actions of the militias and terrorist groups in the area of ATO.

At the time when the journalists themselves acknowledge that the excessive emotionality of journalistic materials and the use of the words such as "vatnyky", "Banderivtsy", "Russists" and others can deepen the split of the society in Ukraine<sup>42</sup>, some media continue to actively use the mentioned terms to create a negative image of this or that social or political group and its delegitimization in the society.

Here are just a few examples of how the Ukrainian media are using "hate speech" to discredit this or that social group:

**Vatnyk in a t-shirt with Putin's image ran into an ATO veteran: photo<sup>43</sup>.**

**Tomorrow. All separs of Kyiv. In one place<sup>44</sup>.**

<sup>42</sup> [http://osvita.mediasapiens.ua/ethics/standards/unikannya\\_movi\\_vorozhnechi\\_nablizit\\_mir/](http://osvita.mediasapiens.ua/ethics/standards/unikannya_movi_vorozhnechi_nablizit_mir/)

<sup>43</sup> <https://znaj.ua/society/vatnyk-u-futbolci-z-putiny-m-narvavsya-na-veterana-ato-foto>

<sup>44</sup> [https://censor.net.ua/blogs/6194/zavtra\\_vs\\_separi\\_kiva\\_v\\_odnomu\\_msts](https://censor.net.ua/blogs/6194/zavtra_vs_separi_kiva_v_odnomu_msts)

***Ungrateful maydaners: in Kyiv initiate the persecution of TV channel "Inter"<sup>45</sup>.***

One of the most active centers of political confrontation between supporters and opponents of European integration of Ukraine is still Odesa. The tragic events of 2 May 2014, which resulted in 48 people dead and over 250 people receiving injuries of various severity, have split local residents into two camps. Publications in the media with "hate speech" use only deepen this split:

***"Separatists' coven": the Supporters of the "Russian world" chanted "Odesa is the Russian city"<sup>46</sup>.***

***Opinion: the prosecution is dragging the trial of 2 May case, fearing the anger of "maydaners"<sup>47</sup>.***

***Odesa Communists-separatists publicly ignored the laws of Ukraine<sup>48</sup>.***

***In Odesa on Kulikovo Pole Square separatists and "vatnyks" will be unveiled<sup>49</sup>.***

In the summer of 2016, so-called "patriots" decided to conduct demonstrative actions of violence against individuals who openly used the St. George's ribbons as a symbol of the pro-Russian movement — the so-called flash mob "Say hello to a separatist"<sup>50</sup>. It is necessary to emphasize that only from 15 June 2017 a law banning the wearing and promotion of St. George's ribbon entered into force. Until then, public use of this ribbon, despite public condemnation by some officials and society at large, was not a violation of the law.

45 <http://antifashist.com/item/nevdyachn%D1%96-majdanut%D1%96-v-Kyive-iniciiruyut-travlyu-telekanala-inter.html>

46 <http://patrioty.org.ua/blogs/separatystskyi-shabash-prykhylnyky-russkoho-myra-skanduvaly-odesa--rosiiske-misto-video-171599.html>

47 [http://timer-Odesa.net/news/mnenie\\_prokuratura\\_zatyagivaet\\_protseess\\_po\\_delu\\_2\\_maya\\_opasayas\\_gneva\\_maydanovtsev\\_809.html](http://timer-Odesa.net/news/mnenie_prokuratura_zatyagivaet_protseess_po_delu_2_maya_opasayas_gneva_maydanovtsev_809.html)

48 <https://www.048.ua/news/1462486>

49 <https://www.048.ua/news/1639009>

50 <https://www.facebook.com/sternenko/posts/1775072996102375>

**"Say hello to a separatist: In Odesa, a supporter of the "Russian world" was punished, his car was damaged (photo)"** — with this title, an article was published in the edition called Patriots of Ukraine.<sup>51</sup> Here is how the journalists of the edition describe the mentioned events: *"Unknown persons in Odesa did a good job in "tuning" pro-Russian guest from Zaporizhzhia, who had temerity to come to the city with St. George's ribbon behind the windshield. Scratched hood and lowered tyres is the price, the car owner paid for his anti-Ukrainian sympathies"*.

Quite often the objects of "hate speech" for the media are not only anonymous supporters of federalization, but specific individuals — the leaders of these political or social movements:

— *"Reported organizer of the coven is Maurice Ibrahim, a supporter of KGB and simply separatist"* — quotes the leader of Odesa organization "Right sector", S Sternenko, Obozrevatel edition<sup>52</sup>.

— *"I understand, for someone 50 or 100 half-mad pensioners, organized by the caricature leader Maurice Ibrahim, chanting: "Donbass, we are with you", claiming on camera that Crimea, is, according to them "Russian", etc. is not a problem, but my opinion is different,"* wrote journalist from Odesa in the article **"Vatnoe" aggravation in Odesa: why the local authorities cave in under the separatists?**<sup>53</sup>

Given the format of information in the media and in nationalist organizations, it is not surprising that on 25 January 2015 unknown persons have attacked M. Ibrahim and caused bodily harm: punched in the head and hurt a face.<sup>54</sup> Moreover, in September the same year, after a joint broadcast with political opponents on the local TV channel about decommunization, Ibrahim was

51 <http://patrioty.org.ua/society/peredai-pryvit-separatystu-v-odesi-provchyly-liubytelia-russkoho-myra-poshkodyvshy-ioho-avto-foto-131193.html>

52 <https://www.obozrevatel.com/society/75938-von-iz-odessyi-banderovskie-besy-na-alley-slavyi-proshel-miting-vatnikov.htm>

53 [https://24tv.ua/ru/vatnoe\\_obostrenie\\_v\\_odesse\\_pochemu\\_mestnaya\\_vlast\\_proginaetsya\\_pod\\_separatistov\\_n805514](https://24tv.ua/ru/vatnoe_obostrenie_v_odesse_pochemu_mestnaya_vlast_proginaetsya_pod_separatistov_n805514)

54 <http://otkat.od.ua/pomoshhniku-deputata-odesskogo-gorsoveta-razbili-golovu-armaturoj/>

subjected to one more assault — an unknown man sprayed his face with a gas spray and kicked him<sup>55</sup>.

Here is how K.Vasylets, "Svoboda" head commented on the recent attack: *"given the fact that he, as they say now, is the last bastion of separatism, I can tell you that he has probably got off lightly because the consequences could have been much worse. If I don't dissemble, I absolutely don't condemn what could have been done by, so called, unknown patriots"*<sup>56</sup>.



Photo 048.ua

Attacks of Ibrahim for his political views continued in 2017 as well. On 9 May 2017, not far from the monument to the Unknown Sailor, the group of so-called "patriots" was mocking M. Ibrahim and forcibly put him on his knees, videotaping their actions. After that the police took Ibrahim aside.<sup>57</sup> None of the attackers was detained by law enforcement agencies.

## 2. "THE BATTLE OF THE PATRIARCHS": THE IMPACT OF "HATE SPEECH" TO RELIGIOUS CONFRONTATIONS

<sup>55</sup> <https://youtu.be/HGfMCIV7MXy>

<sup>56</sup> <http://1tv.od.ua/news/9589>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.048.ua/news/1646781>

**How to tell the use of "hate speech" in coverage of religious issues and to distinguish it from freedom of speech and the right to freedom of religion? How does "hate speech" influence religious and inter-religious conflict in Ukraine?**



*Title photo. Photo Apostrophe.*

International bodies for the protection of human rights have repeatedly stressed that "hate speech" cannot be justified by the right to freedom of expression<sup>58</sup>. In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights rejected the claim by Fouad Belkacem, leader and spokesperson of the organization "Sharia-4Belgium," which was disbanded in 2012, on bringing him to criminal responsibility for incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence in connection with the comments made in the video disseminated in YouTube, against non-Muslims. The court noted that in its comments Belkacem called on the audience to defeat non-Muslims, to teach them a lesson and combat them.

Unfortunately, in Ukraine in connection with the occupation of Crimea and military aggression in the East, alarming trend of radical views and the use of "hate speech" in the media regarding Russian-Ukrainian relations increased. Simultaneously, the number of publications in the media, which use the "hate

<sup>58</sup> The decision of the ECtHR *Belkacem v Belgium* [2017], No 34367/14

speech" based on the grounds of religion significantly increased. A special scale got the use of "hate speech" against the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP):

***Moscow priests ban Ukrainian language in Ukraine<sup>59</sup>***

***"Russian world" vs. Ukrainian Church: how Moscow priests attack<sup>60</sup>***

***Moscow priests campaign against mobilization<sup>61</sup>***

***How to expel Moscow priests from the monastery<sup>62</sup>***

Active dissemination of "hate speech" in 2014-2015 contributed to a physical confrontation between the religious communities. In 2015, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights reported on seven claims of sectarian conflicts of Orthodox Christians on the territory of Rivne, Ternopil and Volyn regions.<sup>63</sup> At the same time, the Commissioner stressed that during 2015 there have been about 100 transitions, including those carried out under physical pressure, of the religious communities of the UOC-MP under the jurisdiction of the UOC-Kyiv Patriarchate.

Some media have persistently informed the public about these conflicts between religious communities with the use of "hate speech", including those in respect of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church:

***"Right sector" helps Orthodox community switch to the Ukrainian Church<sup>64</sup>.***

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<sup>59</sup> [https://beztabu.net/moskovskie-popy-nazvali-eretikami-vseh-kto-molitsya-na-ukrainskom-yazyke\\_n23442](https://beztabu.net/moskovskie-popy-nazvali-eretikami-vseh-kto-molitsya-na-ukrainskom-yazyke_n23442)

<sup>60</sup> [https://24tv.ua/ru/russkij\\_mir\\_vs\\_ukrainskaja\\_cerkov\\_kak\\_nastupajut\\_moskovskie\\_popy\\_n868649](https://24tv.ua/ru/russkij_mir_vs_ukrainskaja_cerkov_kak_nastupajut_moskovskie_popy_n868649)

<sup>61</sup> <http://day.kyiv.ua/uk/blog/politika/moskovski-popi-agituyut-proti-mobilizaciyi>

<sup>62</sup> [http://vgolos.com.ua/articles/yak\\_vygnaty\\_iz\\_lavry\\_moskovskyh\\_popiv\\_229802.html](http://vgolos.com.ua/articles/yak_vygnaty_iz_lavry_moskovskyh_popiv_229802.html)

<sup>63</sup> [http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid\\_2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid_2016_final.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> <https://pravyysektor.info/borotba/pravyy-sektor-dopomagaye-pravoslavnym-gromadam-perehodyty-do-ukrayinskoyi-cerkvy>

***Moscow priests complain on harassment in Ternopil region<sup>65</sup>.***

***The parishioners of the village Soloniv evicted Moscow priest and got rid of the Russian Church<sup>66</sup>.***

***Radicals: we take the Church in Kolomyia. This is our hut!<sup>67</sup>.***

The Director of the Department for religions and nationalities of the Ministry of culture Andrii Yurash in an interview to "Media Detector" explained the use of "hate speech" in religious matters as follows: "I, in no case, justify the use of hate speech, but I can explain why it has developed in the relationships, the rhetoric of official statements and the statements of many church leaders. Because of military actions, our society is radicalized enough, now it much more firmly asks those questions on the agenda for decades, but didn't find solutions".<sup>68</sup>



Photo by Galka.if.ua.

65 <http://www.gazeta-misto.te.ua/moskovski-pop/>

66 <http://volyn.rivne.com/ua/3356>

67 <http://uoj.org.ua/ua/novosti/sobytiya/radikali-khram-v-kolomii-mi-zabira-mo-tse-nasha-khata-video>

68 <http://detector.media/infospace/article/123168/2017-02-15-andrii-yurash-odnieyu-z-prichin-movi-vorozhnechi-e-stereotipne-mislennya/>



Is a radicalization of the society an excuse to use the hate speech and religious intolerance? Despite international law, which guarantees freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief<sup>69</sup>, in Ukraine and still there is no effective remedy against intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief, including counteraction to "hate speech".

The practice of "hate speech" use in religious field remains relevant in 2017 as well:

***"Moscow priests out of Halychyna!" — the Facebook community against the UOC-MP<sup>70</sup> is gaining popularity on the Internet.***

***Moscow priests join political party<sup>71</sup>.***

***"Moscow priest out." In Frankivsk there is a protest against the Moscow Patriarchate church<sup>72</sup>.***

In the aspect of deepening the conflicts, a special attention deserves the use of "hate speech" against Muslims by the media. Currently, it is possible to speak about existence of two opposite approaches. In the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea, it is quite common to use "hate speech" against Muslims in the context of negative coverage of the Crimean Tatars activity and their non-recognition of the Crimea's occupation.

***Islam in Crimea: yesterday and today. Challenges and threats to the Muslim community of Crimea come from the outside<sup>73</sup>.***

***Russian Crimea: problems, threats and challenges<sup>74</sup>***

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69 For example, the Resolution of the UN General Assembly as of 23 December 1993. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r128.htm>

70 [https://gazeta.ua/articles/regions/\\_get-moskovskih-popiv-z-galichini-u-merezhi-nabuvaye-populyarnosti-fejsbukspilnota-proti-upc-mp/796183](https://gazeta.ua/articles/regions/_get-moskovskih-popiv-z-galichini-u-merezhi-nabuvaye-populyarnosti-fejsbukspilnota-proti-upc-mp/796183)

71 <http://www.chas.cv.ua/40750-moskovsk-popi-stayut-partynimi.html>

72 <http://www.galka.if.ua/get-moskovskogo-popa-u-frankivsku-protestuyut-proti-tserkvi-moskovskogo-patriarhatu-foto/>

73 <http://svpressa.ru/politic/article/139735/>

74 <https://www.geopolitica.ru/article/krym-rossiyskiy-problemy-ugrozy-i-vyzovy>



At that time, as the occupying power carries out reprisals against the Muslim Crimean Tatar community<sup>75</sup> in these and similar publications the media indicate the existence of a "real" threat to the inhabitants of Crimea from the Muslim community (mainly Crimean Tatars), drawing parallels between Muslims and terrorists and sectarians.

At the same time, the analysis of Ukrainian media in the present time testifies the prevailing balance of journalistic materials covering these questions:

***Respect to diversity: How to switch to Islam and to wear the hi-jab***<sup>76</sup>.

***The mufti of Ukraine: Our Jihad is working for the good of the whole society***<sup>77</sup>.

Thus, the absence in Ukraine of effective mechanisms of combating "hate speech" makes extremely difficult the possibility of its eradication in the media space, especially in relation to religious and interfaith relations. International and national experts, including the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, who repeatedly urged to amend national legislation with a view to resolve this problem. It should be noted that the ombudsman suggests not only to amend existing criminal liability, but also to impose administrative and civil liability for the use and dissemination of "hate speech".

Moreover, an important component in the fight against "hate speech", especially in religious matters, is to conduct public educational campaigns among broad layers of the population. It is the segment, which is almost neglected by the state. Now we can only hope that common sense and commitment to democratic values and human rights by the Ukrainian society will win over the desire to spread intolerance and to sow discord among religious communities.

<sup>75</sup> [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Documents/A-HRC-27-75\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Documents/A-HRC-27-75_en.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> <https://life.pravda.com.ua/projects/riznomanittya/2017/05/19/224271/>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.segodnya.ua/ukraine/muftiy-ukrainy-nash-dzhihad-eto-truditsya-dlya-blagavsego-obshchestva-710815.html>

### 3. "REMEMBER LOSHCYNYIVKA": FLASH OF ANTI-ROMA RHETORIC

Public "hate speech", especially in the materials of the media, is very dangerous in inter-ethnic sphere. Uncontrolled use of "hate speech" in the media after the conflict in the village called Loshchynivka in Odesa region was one of the reasons of igniting anti-Roma rhetoric.



Photo CITY

On 27 August 2016, in Loshchynivka village of Izmail district of Odesa region there were pogroms of houses of the Roma families and the forceful eviction of the Roma from the territory of the village. The pogroms were preceded by a tragedy — the murder of a child and arrest of a suspect, local resident (half Roma). The conflict in Loshchynivka showed a massive use of "hate speech" by local officials and especially the media.

A cursory analysis of the publications after the conflict in Loshchynivka identified more than 40 materials in the popular media of local, regional and central levels, containing "hate speech". In their articles journalists, in particular, indicate the nationality of the suspect (in most cases without a court order the victim is referred to as murderer and rapist); use of offensive and stereotypical name "Gypsy"; counter Roma community to local residents or other nationalities.

Most publications were full of such headlines:

"A gypsy killed a 9-year-old girl with a screwdriver"<sup>78</sup>.

"Gypsy raped and killed a 9-year-old girl in Odesa region, the people loot the congregation (PHOTO+VIDEO)"<sup>79</sup>.

"In Odesa region a Gypsy raped and killed a 9-year-old child, unrests in the village (PHOTOS, VIDEO)"<sup>80</sup>.

**Gypsies in encampment are fleeing from the village in Odesa region, where local residents staged people's revenge for the murder of a little girl (VIDEO)**<sup>81</sup>

A number of national and regional media<sup>82</sup> covering this incident, adhered to the position of the hidden or open sympathy for the participants in the pogrom, were spreading unverified information, not in terms of facts, and stereotyping on one side of the confrontation. In particular, pointed to the identity of the suspect to be Roma and relied on unverified information about the existence of the drug den in the village, organized by local Roma community.

Manifestations of "hate speech" in this case also include public statements made by officials, in particular the comments of current at that time head of Odesa state regional administration M. Saakashvili. During the briefing, he commented on the events like that: **"I fully share the indignation of all the inhabitants of Loshchynivka. I sent the head of the Regional Department of Internal Affairs there (police). There really is a brothel; there is a massive drug trade, which these antisocial elements are engaged in"**<sup>83</sup>.

78 <http://kp.ua/incidents/549211-tsyhan-ubyl-9-letnuiui-devochku-otvertkoi>

79 [http://news.eizvestia.com/news\\_incidents/full/463-cygan-iznasiloval-i-ubil-9-letnyuyu-devochku-v-odesskoj-oblasti-lyudi-gromyat-obshhinu-fotovideo?adv=ex](http://news.eizvestia.com/news_incidents/full/463-cygan-iznasiloval-i-ubil-9-letnyuyu-devochku-v-odesskoj-oblasti-lyudi-gromyat-obshhinu-fotovideo?adv=ex)

80 <http://fakty.ictv.ua/ua/index/read-news/id/1593001/>

81 <http://agrimpasa.com/cygane-taborom-begut-s-derevni-v-odesskoj-oblasti-gde-mestnye-zhiteli-ustroili-narodnuyu-mest-v-otvet-na-ubijstvo-malenkoj-devochki-video.html>

82 <http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2016/08/28/7118910/> <http://fakty.ictv.ua/ua/proisshestvija/20160828-1593013/> <http://bessarabiainform.com/2016/08/izmailskij-r-n-iz-za-ubijstva-rebenka-v-loshchinovke-mestnye-zhiteli-krushili-tsyganskije-doma/>

83 <http://ua.112.ua/suspilstvo/saakashvili-pidtrymav-pohromy-romiv-v-loshchynivtsi-tam-rearno-pryton-334761.html>

In this aspect, it is also necessary to note the decision of the local authorities, who have publicly taken the position of protection of those who committed the lynching of the Roma community; direct actions (formation of pickets, protest groups) of members of certain social and political movements of the radical wing, in particular, activists of "Azov" Civil corp<sup>84</sup>.

It is significant that the conflict in the village called Loshchynivka was picked up by Russian media, which used the "hate speech" as the main tool informing about the event. Thus, the efforts of some pro-Russian regional information resources regarding fomenting of anti-Roma intolerance in the Ukrainian society, panic mood regarding the growth of ethnic crime among the Roma and other ethnic groups<sup>85</sup> intensified.

The Roma community asks not to blame a whole national minority for the prosecution of one person. Due to this, students of the Roma education fund have launched a social media campaign in support of nationality. Young people published their photos with the inscription "I am Roma and not a criminal!" in social networks and called on all concerned to support the action. "We in no case support committing crimes, and if in Loshchynivka there were or are problems, they must be solved by the law enforcement agencies in the framework of the legislation. But we are against automatic prosecution of members of national minorities for the crimes of specific individuals," — said the initiator of the flash mob, head of IT management of the Lviv City Council Ivan Korzhov<sup>86</sup>.

We can assume that such a broad use in the media of "hate speech" has provoked and provokes further specific anti-Roma performances. For example, families of Roma who were forced to leave Loshchynivka, are refused to be taken in other communities and are treated like criminals.

**After the events in Loshchynivka, in Odesa there were posters in public places with calls for Roma pogroms. It became known from the social networks. The fliers contained offensive to people of Roma origin**

84 <http://azov.press/ukr/protistoyannya-v-seli-loschinivka-triva-zhiteli-formuyuyut-zagoni-samooboroni>

85 <http://www.niss.gov.ua/content/articles/files/mova-8e1e2.pdf>

86 <https://www.obozrevatel.com/crime/49102-bunt-pod-odessoj-romyi-splotilis-i-potrebovali-ostanovit-unizheniya.htm>

images and texts: "Gypsies are criminals and murderers. Gypsies are mafia. Remember Loshchynivka".



Photo from Facebook.

Anti-Roma rhetoric actively moved to social networks. In particular, in Odesa supporters of the far-right organization "Sokil" urged passersby to avoid contacts with representatives of the Roma nationality, calling them "parasites of society". Odesa edition "Dumskaya" reports on it, as well as the organization itself reports on its action on the page on Facebook. The activists of organization distribute leaflets containing threats to mentioned ethnic group. "It is for representatives of the Roma culture — Gypsies. Lately they became participants of clashes with locals and city visitors. Gypsies are carriers of various diseases and a breeding ground for the insanitary conditions. During the campaign the nationalists talked to passers-by, and advised to avoid any contact with the parasites of society", — was stated in the message of "Sokil" on Facebook<sup>87</sup>.

<sup>87</sup> [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/ultrapravij\\_sokil\\_proviv\\_v\\_odesi\\_antiromskij\\_agitrejd](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/ultrapravij_sokil_proviv_v_odesi_antiromskij_agitrejd)

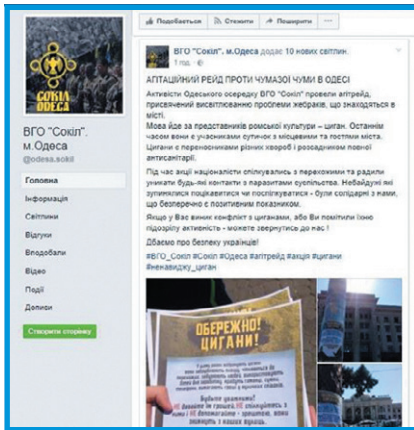


Photo from Facebook

Regarding the distribution of such leaflets, the Coalition of Roma non-governmental public organizations of Ukraine "Strategy 2020" on 27 July 2017 appealed to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Valeria Lutkovska. The purpose of this appeal was the desire to prevent the spread of information in Ukraine, which contributes to a discriminatory hostile attitude against the Roma community. "The facts of distribution have not been confirmed, but such an organization exists. The SBU is figuring out what motifs it has to post it on the Internet. We contacted the Ombudsperson to analyze and find out the causes of discrimination of Roma and to prevent such cases", — said the head of the Coalition of Roma NGOs Volodymyr Kondur<sup>88</sup>.

Speaking of anti-discrimination in the context of anti-Roma pogroms in Loshchynivka, the Director of the Roma program initiative of the International fund "Renaissance" Olha Zhmurko expressed the following opinion: "Often, when speaking about the victims of discrimination about what loses discriminated minority, we think little about what the majority loses from discrimination?.. In the case of Loshchynivka, the majority lost because previous years when this conflict has been brewing, no one talked about inclusion, no one tried to find a dialogue. My message is that we are thinking about vulnerable, discriminated groups, understand what is really in the interests of the major-

<sup>88</sup> <http://legalspace.org/ua/napryamki/posilennya-romskikh-gromad/item/10090-hromadski-aktyvisty-prosiat-ombudsmena-vziaty-na-kontrol-pytannia-shchodo-zakhystu-prav-romiv>

ity, for the sake of a prosperous and safe existence of completely different minorities — to think about the benefits that gives us inclusion: prevention of discrimination, in the real physical violent conflicts"<sup>89</sup>.

#### 4. "HATE SPEECH" AS A FACTOR OF HATRED TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The main motivation behind the use of "hate speech" based on sexual orientation, gender identity or sexual characteristics is to undermine the dignity and value of a person belonging to the LGBT community. Thus, on the one hand it creates a negative image of the LGBT community, and on the other hand — a society is convinced that this social group does not deserve the recognition, respect and equality.



*Photo Apostrophe*

Under Ukrainian reality, the society gradually realizes the real problems faced by the LGBT community and becomes more open for discussion in the framework of social dialogue, stress analysts of the human rights LGBT Center "Our world"<sup>90</sup>. Most Ukrainian media, especially the major publications, heard the calls of human rights defenders regarding definition, detection and

<sup>89</sup> <http://legalspace.org/ua/napryamki/posilennya-romskikh-gromad/item/10358-forum-vydavtsiv-u-lvovi-romska-tema-z-ekskliuzyvnoi-peretvoriuietsia-na-inkliuzyvnu>

<sup>90</sup> <http://gay.org.ua/documents/Situation-of-LGBT-in-Ukraine-Summer-2017-UKR.docx>



respond to "hate speech" against LGBT people, and learned tolerant to highlight LGBT themes.

At the same time, there remain cases of blatant manipulation by some media, especially small regional or local editions. Such publications use "hate speech" to attract the attention of a wider audience and achieve the best performance in popularity ratings.<sup>91</sup>

Special attention from the point of view of broadcasting "hate speech" deserves the public events of the LGBT community in the media — such as Equality Marches, festivals of queer culture and gay pride.

*"...European values in the form of gay parade, sex festivals are pressed and held everywhere where it is possible and not possible, suggesting to us that sodomy and fornication is the norm, it is good and pleasant..."*<sup>92</sup>

*"Earlier, on June 12, a gay parade was held in Kyiv with the participation of thousands of sexual perverts. It was attended by six thousand police officers. Some police officers resigned not to participate in the procession of gays"*<sup>93</sup>

It should be noted that often the use of "hate speech" in the media against a particular social or marginal social group achieves real results. Thus, in 2016, human rights activists and the LGBT community faced the actual results of the dissemination of "hate speech" in Dnipro and Odesa<sup>94</sup>. In these cities because of intolerant statements by right-radical organizations and publications in the media, the owners refused to provide premises for exhibitions, discussion forums on LGBT topics because of possible provocations and attacks.

For example, in July 2016, the Central city library in Dnipro unilaterally refused to provide premises for the Festival of equality because of negative,

91 <http://detector.media/infospace/article/118535/2016-09-08-yak-pisati-pro-lgbt-spilnotu-pamyatka-dlya-zhurnalistiv/>

92 <https://www.048.ua/news/1336557>

93 <http://svoboda.fm/politics/ukraine/246290.html?language=ua>

94 <https://inform-ua.info/>

society/v-odesse-orhanyzator-festyvalya-lhbt-Odesaprayd2016-otmenyly-vse-sehodnyashnye-meropryyatyia-yzza-otsutstvyya-pomeshchenyya-dlya-provedenyya



provocative titles of articles in the media. As explained by the head of NGO "Gender club "Dnipro" Hanna Miagkikh<sup>95</sup>, the problem arose only through the use of a screaming headline about the conduct of gay parade in Dnipro.

*"We contacted the organizers and they said, you know, we can't jeopardize the library and its readers, if such information is disseminated. We have always held a lot of events: here women — participants of the ATO, immigrants, people with reduced mobility, women, that got through violence, would have gone by the way-side, but **this** (LGBT — ed.) would come out to the foreground. For us it's dangerous, it's a library, not a place, where there can be "fighting", we have no way to defend the library, so we refused. You remember what was happening in Lviv and how in Kyiv gay march was guarded ...",* quoted by Radio Svoboda<sup>96</sup>, the Deputy Director of the library.

A similar problem was voiced by the LGBT community in Odesa. In the framework of the festival of queer culture "Odesapride 2016", the last minute they were forced to look for new premises for carrying out pre-planned and prepared events.

In August 2017, the LGBT Association "LIGA" openly announced the holding of "Days of equality and pride," of the LGBT community from 6 to 11 September in Mykolaiv, Kherson and Odesa.<sup>97</sup> In the framework of the announced pride was scheduled a public event in Mykolaiv — laying flowers at the monument of Nebesna Sotnia in memory of those killed during the Revolution of Dignity. Moreover, the LGBT community has officially invited the head of the Mykolaiv state regional administration to take part in honoring the victims.

However, activists of all-Ukrainian party "Svoboda" and its youth wing "Sokil Svobody", together with the members of "Right Sector", have publicly condemned the planned action of the LGBT community and opposed its implementation with the use of "hate speech". In particular, the leader of the Mykolaiv regional office of "Right Sector" Mykhaylo Barsuk, stated: *"All who care about the fate of family values in our city, wishing to protest against actions and events that promote non-traditional, but in fact perverted relationship between*

95 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw\\_8WNFa3Pc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw_8WNFa3Pc)

96 <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news/27846579.html>

97 <http://bit.ly/2hyC9aa>

*the sexes we call during 2 — 6 September to express their position openly, and to protect the future of our children and not to allow to manipulate the names of the Heroes of the Heavenly hundred!*".<sup>98</sup>

Unfortunately, these public homophobic slogans and also active actions of radical activists with a passive behavior of law enforcement agencies have finally reached its "result" — on 8 September the action of laying flowers was disrupted. The LGBT community has been forced to postpone the laying flowers to the monument of the Heavenly Hundred and reported the situation to the official institutions and international organizations. *"I believe that a society that doesn't want to expand the boundaries of consciousness and perceive the world in all its diversity, is doomed to self-destruction"*, said the head of the LGBT Association "LIGA", commenting on the disrupted action.<sup>99</sup>

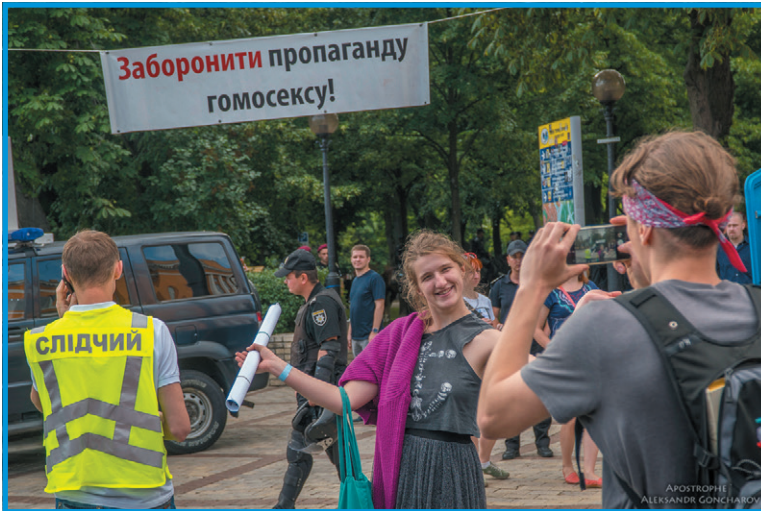


Photo Apostrophe

Ignoring the global trend towards the eradication of hate speech", including in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity,<sup>100</sup> Ukraine is not paying enough attention to positive measures to combat discrimination and prej-

<sup>98</sup> <https://news.pn/ru/public/142193>

<sup>99</sup> <http://lgbt.com.ua/statement-ua/>

<sup>100</sup> Resolution of the UN — Sexual orientation and gender identity. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LGBTUNResolutions.aspx>

udice against LGBT people in society. Moreover, the police "reluctantly and inefficiently investigate "hate crimes" against LGBT people", say human rights activists.<sup>101</sup>

***"On the landing we were approached by two unknown who started shouting "Gotcha, faggots!" and began to beat us up. We have not been robbed, just beaten up. That is, the main reason for the attack **was hatred of us as members of the LGBT community**,"*** said LGBT activist from Odesa Igor Zakharchenko at a press conference on 24 October 2017.<sup>102</sup> The activist, who is openly gay, along with his partner, was forced to leave Ukraine after a regular beating up over his sexual orientation, which occurred on 22 October 2017, in Odesa.

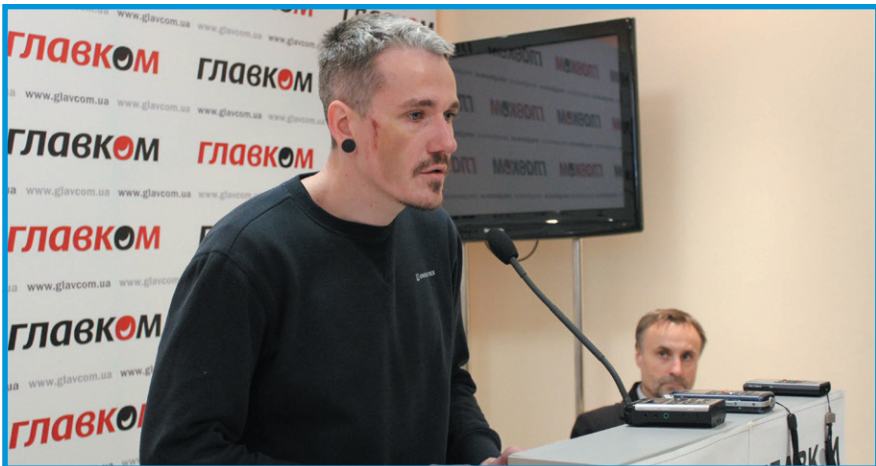


Photo by Center of information about human rights

In 2016, he had been the victim of attacks in Kyiv and Odesa because of hatred to members of the LGBT community, which have not been investigated by law enforcements. However, the last drop, which forced them to leave Ukraine, was the reluctance of the police to conduct a proper investigation and to bring the attackers to justice for already the third attack in the last 2 years. The police just accepted a statement about the beating up, but have

<sup>101</sup> <http://gay.org.ua/documents/Situation-of-LGBT-in-Ukraine-Summer-2017-UKR.docx>

<sup>102</sup> [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/derzhava\\_na\\_boci\\_gomofobiv\\_odeskij\\_lgbtaktivist\\_zalishiv\\_ukrajinu\\_pisljia\\_napadu](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/derzhava_na_boci_gomofobiv_odeskij_lgbtaktivist_zalishiv_ukrajinu_pisljia_napadu)

not opened the corresponding criminal proceedings, as required by article 214 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine.

***"We are in France. We will not come back. We do not want to get killed in the entrance or be victims of a Safari. The police did not help us, the government is on the side of the homophobes. This was a difficult decision, but alas, there is no other choice. We just want to live"*** — wrote the LGBT activist from Odesa on 30 October 2017<sup>103</sup>.

## 5. "THEY ARE NOT OF OUR FAITH!": REFUGEES AS AN OBJECT OF HATE SPEECH

Recently, the xenophobia and the use of "hate speech" against immigrants and refugees have increased substantially. Increasingly, those who are perceived as "foreigners" on the basis of national or ethnic origin, religion and belief, become the objects of aggression and accusations of economic problems and the deterioration of a criminogenic situation in the communities.



Photo by Novynarnia

In this context, the media is a major player that influences the perception of a wide range of the population of migrants and refugees and their integration. Instead, quite often the media act as a powerful platform for discrimination and incitement to hatred and violence. In its turn, this leads to a wrong view

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/igor.zakharchenko.104/posts/1448423211922590>

and bias on the part of the local population towards refugees and migrants from different countries.

During 2013-2017 years, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in the annual reports on the state of observance of rights and freedoms of people and citizen in Ukraine<sup>104</sup> stressed that in a society are growing negative trends in relation to manifestations of xenophobia, religious, national and racial intolerance, and the use of "hate speech".

**One of the striking manifestations of "hate speech" against refugees and asylum seekers is the situation around the construction of temporary accommodation for refugees in the city Yahotyn of Kyiv region.**

In February-March 2016, in the small town of Yahotyn mass protests broke out against the opening of the temporary accommodation for refugees. The project, which was launched in 2003, unexpectedly provoked open aggression of the local residents and attracted the attention of the whole Ukraine.

In 2004, the government of Ukraine started the reconstruction of the temporary accommodation for refugees in Yahotyn in Kyiv region. Due to the difficult economic situation in the country and funding problems, the reconstruction of the place continued until 2016. At the same time, the need for the introduction a paragraph in the operation and creation of infrastructure for accommodation of persons seeking protection was identified as the National plan for the implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan between the EU and Ukraine. The State Migration Service of Ukraine planned to place in Yahotyn the most vulnerable categories of refugees, namely, unaccompanied children, families with children and victims of violence.<sup>105</sup>

When the reconstruction of the place was at the final stage, representatives of local authorities and local residents with the support of the nationalist parties began to block its completion. A negative attitude by the residents to refugees and seekers of protection increased with active use of "hate speech" in the media.

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/page/secretariat/docs/presentations/>

<sup>105</sup> [http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art\\_id=248871251](http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art_id=248871251)



Photo by 112.ua

***Syrian refugees are already in Ukraine. "How Yahotyn is going to shelter exotic refugees? Experiment with the Syrian accent"*<sup>106</sup>.**

***Migrants — no! In Kyiv region the protest against the centre for Syrian refugees sparked*<sup>107</sup>.**

***Shelter in Yahotyn: ghetto, the ISIS cell or a piece of Europe?*<sup>108</sup>**

***"The refugees will bring us a lot of problems, which we already have plenty," said the activist, who opposes settlement of Syrians, Ivan Zamorskyi. There are infectious diseases, and lack of epidemiological control over their distribution, the crime in the city will multiply.*"<sup>109</sup>**

***"We were never asked, they have started something they decide to do. About 90 percent of locals are against. And what is there to rejoice?***

<sup>106</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLzg4Ge9VHZEWqoLEcToXT\\_L3FA\\_YBjean&v=pJ2fcbEJLSM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLzg4Ge9VHZEWqoLEcToXT_L3FA_YBjean&v=pJ2fcbEJLSM)

<sup>107</sup> [http://Kyivvlast.com.ua/text/migrantam\\_\\_net\\_na\\_Kyivshhine\\_razgorelsja\\_protest\\_protiv\\_centra\\_dlja\\_sirijskih\\_bezhencev36558](http://Kyivvlast.com.ua/text/migrantam__net_na_Kyivshhine_razgorelsja_protest_protiv_centra_dlja_sirijskih_bezhencev36558)

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.depo.ua/rus/life/chi-mozhut-yagotinski-siriytsi-zrobiti-z-nas-evropeytsiv-04032016130500>

<sup>109</sup> <http://antifashist.com/item/vmeste-s-evropoj-yagotin-primet-250-sirijskih-bezhencev.html#ixzz50TdAgnjH>



***There is no work in the city, businesses barely ends meet. What they will do here, will we survive or will they sell cannabis on the cheap? There will be clashes, you will see. Especially to populate our town ... it doesn't have one million, where they would not be heard and seen".***<sup>110</sup>

***"Yes, and then they will start, as in Europe, rape our women and rob. Do we need that? We have enough trouble as it is. Let them go to Chernobyl zone, occupy there territory..."***<sup>111</sup>

Moreover, members of the Yahotyn City Council unanimously revoked the permit for the construction of a temporary refugees' shelter in Yahotyn.<sup>112</sup> A similar position was taken by the mayor of Yahotyn and a few deputies of Kyiv regional council, who supported the xenophobic attitude of the community.

***As stated by the mayor of Yahotyn Natalia Dzuba to KV, the people of her city are very unhappy with the opening of the "Syrian ghetto".***<sup>113</sup>

The situation in Yahotyn, the co-coordinator of the project "Without borders" center "Social action" Maksym Butkevych believes to be a manipulation of the population through fear. In his opinion, due to lack of information, the locals "are worked up" for political purposes. Residents do not know who the "refugees" are; they do not have reliable information about who will be lodged there<sup>114</sup>.

The situation in Yahotyn has caused concern in national and international human rights organizations that have condemned xenophobia and discrimination. In particular, the Independent Media Council<sup>115</sup> examined the ethics and

<sup>110</sup> <https://ukranews.com/news/413883-mestnye-zhytely-protyv-razmeshhenyya-bezhencev-yz-syryy-v-Yahotyne>

<sup>111</sup> <https://ukranews.com/news/413883-mestnye-zhytely-protyv-razmeshhenyya-bezhencev-yz-syryy-v-Yahotyne>

<sup>112</sup> <https://ukranews.com/news/416608-v-Yahotyne-ne-budut-razmeshhat-bezhencev-yz-syryy>

<sup>113</sup> [http://Kyivvlast.com.ua/text/migrantam\\_\\_net\\_na\\_Kyivshhine\\_razgorelsja\\_protest\\_protiv\\_centra\\_dlja\\_sirijskih\\_bezhencev36558](http://Kyivvlast.com.ua/text/migrantam__net_na_Kyivshhine_razgorelsja_protest_protiv_centra_dlja_sirijskih_bezhencev36558)

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/27617665.html>

<sup>115</sup> Independent Media Council was founded by five leading public media organizations: "Center for democracy and the rule of law", "Institute of Mass Information", "Internews-Ukraine", NGO "Media Detector" and "Foundation "Suspilnist" and it consists of 15 members.

legality of the coverage of the Ukrainian media of the topic of refugees and asylum seekers and came to these conclusions: the majority of the Ukrainian media that covered the topic of refugees and asylum seekers, had violated international and national legal norms of non-discrimination and dissemination of hate speech, as well as significantly violated relevant professional and ethical standards.<sup>116</sup>

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine with a request to examine the effectiveness of actions by law enforcement bodies on the situation in Yahotyn and to give it a proper assessment.<sup>117</sup> The State Migration Service, jointly with UNHCR in Ukraine, conducted a sensitization campaign and public debate. However, despite the efforts of the national human rights defenders, government agencies and international organizations, as of 2017 the opening of the temporary accommodation for refugees in Yahotyn has not taken place.

Special attention in this context deserve the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, adopted on the twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Ukraine on 23 August 2016<sup>118</sup>.

In the section of ***Racial hatred on the basis of the statements and crimes motivated by hatred***, the Committee expressed its concern at the reported increase in racial hatred and discriminatory remarks in public discourse, including public and political figures, the media, particularly the Internet and at rallies aimed primarily at minorities, such as Roma, persons without citizenship and refugees. The Committee reminded Ukraine about the importance of protecting the rights of groups in need of protection against racial hatred and incitement, including in mass media and encouraged Ukraine to take appropriate measures for the condemnation and prevention of racial hatred and discriminatory remarks in public discourse, including from.

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116 <http://mediarada.org.ua/case/dyskryminatsiya-ta-ksenofobiya-u-vysvitlenni-temy-bizhentsiv-u-yahotyn/>

117 [http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid\\_2017.pdf](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid_2017.pdf)

118 [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en)



## 6. "HATE SPEECH" UNDER THE GUISE OF "TRADITIONAL VALUES"

One of the directions of propagation of "hate speech" against the LGBT community and a significant factor in the increasing pressure on human rights defenders and activists was the protection of "traditional family values" through the organization of appropriate marches, excepting calls, disruption of events and threats to their organizers and participants.



Photo by Maiak

In contrast to the equality March for 2016 — 2017, in many major cities of Ukraine marches in support of "traditional values" were held. Thus, on 15 August 2016, in Odesa a march in opposition to the equality March was held and it took place two days earlier. Among the participants were representatives of Ukrainian patriotic organizations and priests. In front of the column of people, they were carrying a large banner with the words "Traditional family, healthy nation". Among other slogans, they were chanting "Faggots, go away!".

When covering such actions, the local media also could not resist the "hate speech" against members of the LGBT community:

***In Odesa a March against the propaganda of sexual perversions was held (PHOTO)*<sup>119</sup>.**

***Anti gay parade: supporters of Christian family values marched from Deribasovska to the Duke*<sup>120</sup>.**

***Neo-Nazis will hold "anti gay parade" in Odesa*<sup>121</sup>.**

The Chairman of the local organization "Social-national Assembly" told to "News-N" on the appointment of the March of traditional values in Mykolaiv "Recently, the attack on traditional family values has been happening. Now specifically the attention is drawn to the artificially far-fetched so-called problem of discrimination against people with a different sexual orientation. The above have already a number of measures and techniques aimed ostensibly to draw attention to their "problems", and actually — to the promotion of unhealthy values. The current government deliberately turns a blind eye to the real problems of the family, such as orphans, single mothers, single parent households, lack of adequate support for young families. But all the attention is focused on the promotion of unhealthy, unnatural for Ukrainians values. The traditional family today is artificially leveled and subjected to pressure from anti traditional forces. We call everybody on 15 June to come for the protection of the traditional family and to show that Mykolaiv is a city of traditional values"<sup>122</sup>.

In such "ideological" key was held and the adoption of applications by individual local authorities to protect "traditional family values". The office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in its reports the concerns, such as manifestations of intolerance expressed by some local government authorities<sup>123</sup>. In particular, it was about the statement, which was adopted

119 <http://Odesa-life.od.ua/news/36868-V-Odesse-proshel-marsh-protiv-propagandy-seksualnyh-izvrascheniy-FOTO>

120 <http://dumskaya.net/news/antigeyparad-storonniki-hristianskih-semeynyh-tc-075714/>

121 [http://timer-Odesa.net/news/neonatsisti\\_provedut\\_v\\_odesse\\_antigeyparad\\_744.html](http://timer-Odesa.net/news/neonatsisti_provedut_v_odesse_antigeyparad_744.html)

122 <https://novosti-n.org/news/read/124898.html>

123 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport20th\\_UKR.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport20th_UKR.pdf)

on 19 September 2017 by the Poltava city council. In the statement, the city council called for a ban on the "promotion of deviant sexual behavior," including "marches of dignity", "prides", "gay parades" and the "festival of queer culture", to remove any mention of "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" from the national legislation, to refrain from the adoption of the law on civil partnerships, abolish sex education aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes from school education, to adopt the Law "On prohibition of propaganda of homosexuality" to stop the process of amending the Constitution and other normative legal acts concerning the definition of family marriage, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood<sup>124</sup>. It seems that the decision to protect the institution of family in Ukraine was taken by the Ivano-Frankivsk city council on 15 December 2017, the document also calls for discrimination against the LGBT community<sup>125</sup>.

We should also focus on the threats and intimidation of participants and organizers of the "Forum of publishers — 2017" in Lviv, because of which was cancelled presentation of the book by Larysa Denysenko "Maia and her moms." This children's book addresses the important issues of ethnic diversity, social origin, homosexual orientation, equality of people. The book aims to nurture a tolerant attitude of the children to the representatives of various social groups and respect for human rights.

In early September, the organizers of the "Forum of publishers — 2017" received a threatening letter and a demand to cancel the planned presentation of the book "Maia and her moms", signed by 15 regional public organizations (in particular, the NGO "Young Halicia", "Halicia Sober", a Literary-educational project "Spirit of the Nation", "Right Sector", "Ukrainian national self-defense").

The letter stated that the discussion in conjunction with presentation of the book by Larysa Denysenko "Maia and her moms" is a direct attack on instilling to students the destructive principles that are contrary to the values and traditions that for centuries were formed in the Ukrainian families." Ended the letter also eloquently: "In case of Your inactivity we are forced to take all

<sup>124</sup> <https://poltava.to/news/44334/>

<sup>125</sup> [www.namvk.if.ua/dt/188112/](http://www.namvk.if.ua/dt/188112/)

possible measures to prevent the carrying out the provocative presentations in Lviv."



*Photos by Ukrainian Pravda*

In its official statement the Forum of publishers confirmed the threats from members of the radical right-wing organizations<sup>126</sup>. Larysa Denysenko wrote on her Facebook page that all statements of the threats mentioned her name<sup>127</sup>. "All my professional life I oppose the violence and advocate tolerance. This behavior, in the opinion of at least 15 organizations of ultraright type and church mark me as the witch of the 21st century. Against violence, a tolerant attitude and dialogue for this international community can add you to messengers of UN goodwill, and then the same fellow co-citizens threaten you with violence. Not only you but also the people who will come to support you, to oppose, to listen to," wrote Denysenko<sup>128</sup>.

The presentation of the book by Larysa Denysenko "Maia and her moms" in the book forum in Lviv did not take place because of the threat of right-wing organizations. But, there was a discussion on the topic "Is a school ready to

126 <http://bookforum.ua/ofitsijna-zayava-forumu-vydavtsiv-shhodo-pogroz-vid-predstavnykiv-radykalnyh-pravyh-organizatsij/>

127 <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news/28731165.html>

128 [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/cherez\\_pogrozi\\_radikaliv\\_na\\_forumi\\_vidavciv\\_vidminili\\_prezentacijiu\\_knizhki\\_larisi\\_denisenko\\_majjia\\_ta\\_jiji\\_mami](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/cherez_pogrozi_radikaliv_na_forumi_vidavciv_vidminili_prezentacijiu_knizhki_larisi_denisenko_majjia_ta_jiji_mami)

talk to children about difficult topics", in which the view prevailed that any otherness in the Ukrainian educational system is perceived as a threat that must be eliminated<sup>129</sup>.

As wrote for UP.Cultura publishers Illia Stronkovskii and Liliia Omelianenko: **"The book by Larysa Denysenko "Maia and her moms" published by us ... was the first children's book in the history of Ukrainian literature, for which the author and the publishers were threatened.** And as the threats have moved from awareness to the level of aggression and action, we have all the fears to worry about our lives and the lives of the participants in the process. These threats violate the fundamental human rights of freedom of speech and equate our country to the totalitarian states of the world where there is homophobia, racism and other manifestations of an underdeveloped society<sup>130</sup>.

At the same time, the official website of the "Right Sector" believes that the assertion that the opponents of the presentation of the book are the opponents of freedom of speech. "To call the corruption of young children, public presentation of a book about lesbian children "freedom of speech" is too primitive and pointless manipulation. Freedom is not the imposition of and advocacy for the most defenseless<sup>131</sup>.

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Valeriia Lutkovska has called unacceptable threats and intimidation of participants and organizers of the "Forum of publishers-2017", which cancelled presentation of the book by Larysa Denysenko "Maia and her moms"<sup>132</sup>.

## 7. ROMA AGAINST "HATE SPEECH"!

**The calls for aggressive action against the Roma, resentment and contempt for them have become typical of commentators in social**

129 [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/majjia\\_ta\\_jiji\\_mami\\_abo\\_chomu\\_ukrajinski\\_shkoli\\_skhozhi\\_na\\_vjaznici](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/majjia_ta_jiji_mami_abo_chomu_ukrajinski_shkoli_skhozhi_na_vjaznici)

130 <http://life.pravda.com.ua/columns/2017/09/11/226393/>

131 <https://pravyysektor.info/novyny/organizaciya-forum-vydvaciv-skasuvala-prezentaciyu-dytyachoyi-knygy-pro-lesbiyok>

132 [www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/all-news/pr/12917-kp-valeriya-lutkovska-pogrozi-i-zalyakuvannya-uchasnikiv-ta-organizatoriv/](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/all-news/pr/12917-kp-valeriya-lutkovska-pogrozi-i-zalyakuvannya-uchasnikiv-ta-organizatoriv/)

networks. However, Roma are able to fight "hate speech" against their community, making it public and involving human rights organizations.



*Photo Facebook*

On 10 September 2017 on his Facebook page, a resident of Uzhhorod Taras Deiak made a repost from the page of the Nationalist movement "Carpathian Sich", which he calls himself a leader of. The activist urged users to discuss and spread this post, which contained a whole bunch of "hate speech" against the Roma:

**"Roma is a very dangerous element to society, because they represent a national criminal clan... Every other day in the news there's information about the robbery, rape, blatant hooliganism, sale and public use of drugs, vandalism, carried out by representatives of above mentioned nationalities... Uzhhorod among tourists and residents of other cities have long been associated with Gypsies, but for ordinary Uzhhorod citizens they bring trouble already by all known methods..."**

Abstracted angry treatise with calls for violence and discrimination: **"Attempts at integration of Roma into society showed that it was useless. Of the tens of thousands of Roma "integrated" became only a**

**few dozen, 95% remained faithful to their usual lifestyle, therefore, we believe that we should deal with this problem by other methods"**<sup>133</sup>.

Methods of dealing the author of the post did not specify, but did many other users' comments. Expressions contained not only the formation of different epithet of a negative image of the Roma and their criminality, but also direct calls for violence. For example, one of the comments reads: **"Roma are the same mad cattle as moskali... You cannot treat them as people. Their place is in the cage with a muzzle ... and they should be obligatory sterilized..."**

As characteristic in the context of the proliferation of "hate speech" in the media and the formation of a negative image of representatives of the Roma community, the author of the post on Facebook refers 14 links to the local media, which are full of anti Roma rhetoric. Here are just some of the headlines:

**In Uzhhorod three Roma robbed a woman at a supermarket**<sup>134</sup>

**In Transcarpathins Gypsies attacked a girl with a syringe and a needle**<sup>135</sup>

**In Uzhhorod Gypsies walk in groups into stores, steal and spit**<sup>136</sup>

In addition, these publications have a typical source of information and its authenticity. For example, the last publication of the source is "about an unprecedented case in one of the local communities on Facebook social network reported Uzhhorod citizen Vasya Vasya".

The next day, September 11, on behalf of the Association of the Roma of Uzhhorod "Roma community", human rights defenders, sent a letter to the Parliament Commissioner on human rights of Ukraine Valeria Lutkovska. A copy of the claim submitted also to the head of Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, Prosecutor of the region and head of MDNP. In their statement Roma activists led by the head of the public organization Myroslav Horvat asked

<sup>133</sup> <http://legalspace.org/ua/napryamki/posilennya-romskikh-gromad/item/10309-pravozakhysnyky-zakarpattia-zvernulyisia-do-ombudsmena-z-pryvodu-rozpaliuvannia-mizhetnichnoi-vorozhnechi-shchodo-romiv>

<sup>134</sup> <http://zakarpattia.net.ua/.../168962-V-Uzhhorodi-troie-tsyhan...>

<sup>135</sup> <http://transcarpatia.net/.../84457-na-zakarpatt-cigani-nakinu...>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.0312.ua/news/1740671>



to respond to the publication on Facebook page called "National movement "Carpathian Sich" and to a number of materials of Transcarpathian mass media about allegedly committed by Roma criminal offense.

The answer appeared on the website of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights on 14 September. The Representative of the Commissioner for children's rights, non-discrimination and gender equality Aksana Filipishina officially responded: "The incitement to discrimination is one form of discrimination that is a dangerous example of incitement to aggression." "The media reports are inadmissible, as can lead to the formation of negative attitudes towards representatives of the Roma community, create a tense, hostile atmosphere for them, degrading national honor and dignity, lead to discrimination and stigmatization", — convinced the Representative of the Commissioner<sup>137</sup>.

"Print media in Ukraine may not be used to incite national hate. At the same time, the publication of materials that can be qualified as inciting national enmity and hatred, humiliation of national honor and dignity or incitement to discrimination, entails a criminal liability. Also, please pay attention to the inadmissibility of distribution of representatives of law enforcement agencies with information about offenders with an indication of their national, ethnic or racial origin" — as stated in the letter of the Representative of the Commissioner.

"Support of a non-discriminatory, tolerant attitude towards Roma, the inadmissibility of the use of any hate speech against them are important components in integrated solutions, the integration into Ukrainian society Roma national minority", — says Aksana Filipishina.

Consequently, the Representative of the Commissioner appealed to the leadership of the Zakarpattia regional state administration with a request to report on measures taken to prevent and counter the spread of materials humiliating national honor and dignity of the Roma, convey disrespect for the cultural traditions of this ethnic minority, contribute to their stigmatization

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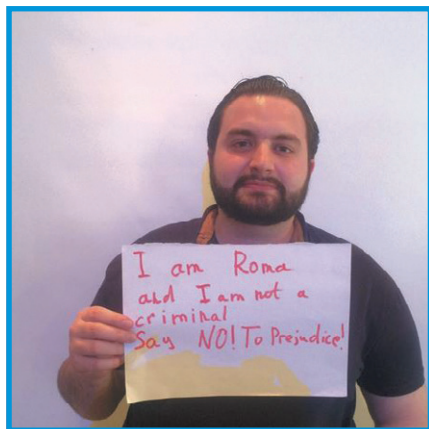
<sup>137</sup> [www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/all-news/all-activity/14917-ut-aksana-filipishina-pidburyvannya-do-diskriminatsiii-tse-odna-z-form/](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/all-news/all-activity/14917-ut-aksana-filipishina-pidburyvannya-do-diskriminatsiii-tse-odna-z-form/)



and discrimination, and strengthen outreach programs aimed at combating prejudice against persons belonging to Roma national minority.

From its side, Roma community on September 13 held in Uzhhorod a flash-mob against the hate speech towards Roma. The action involved Roma pupils, local journalists, Roma community activists. "Recently in the web there is negative and openly hostile attitude to citizens of Ukraine, namely the Roma. Open racist texts are written by the citizens of the city. Uzhhorod, urged their fellows to illegal actions against the Roma ethnic minority. The Roma community of Uzhhorod replied with legitimate and decent action... "No" to hate speech! "Dosta" nalača čibake! "No hate!" posted on Facebook Viktor Čhovka and asked to help with the proliferation of video flash mob.<sup>138</sup>

This flash mob demonstrates the powerful reaction of the Roma of Uzhhorod, Zemfira Kondur, the Deputy Chairman of the Interdepartmental group on the integration of the Roma said to Hromadske radio. In addition, the fact that it was attended by children, says that young generation wants to live in a tolerant country<sup>139</sup>.



*Photo Facebook*

<sup>138</sup> <http://legalspace.org/ua/napryamki/posilennya-romskikh-gromad/item/10326-romy-uzhhoroda-provely-fleshmob-proty-movy-vorozhnechi-foto-video>

<sup>139</sup> <https://hromadskeaudio.org/programs/chiriklo/slova-odnogo-z-gromadskiyh-diyachiv-uzhgoroda-vyklykaly-oburenniya-pravozahysnykiv-zakarpattya-y-negatyvnu-ocinku-ombudsmana>

The Director of the Roma program initiative of the International Fund "Renaissance" Olga Zhmurko said: "we must admit that "hate speech" is a tool of manipulation to split society, it is part of its instability and reduced confidence. And the biggest mistake here might be an underestimation of the negative impact of those phenomena and manifestations of aggression on the public consciousness"<sup>140</sup>.

## 8. THE LINE BETWEEN NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA: THE PATRIOTS AGAINST MIGRANTS

In recent years, cases of individual nationalist organizations, which contain elements of incitement to racial hatred and propaganda occur more often. An integral part of these cases is the widespread use of "hate speech" to persons belonging to minorities.



Photo Facebook

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.roma.ussf.kiev.ua/index.php/podiji-proektu/bla/190-olga-zhmurko-mova-vorozhnechi-tse-instrument-manipulyatsij-iz-metoyu-rozkolu-suspilstva>

In August 2016, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted observations on the twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Ukraine on 23 August 2016<sup>141</sup>. Among other comments in the section "Organizations, inciting racial hatred", the Committee expressed its concern about reports that some nationalist organizations such as "Right Sector", "Civil Corp "Azov" and "Social-national Assembly", develop activities which could be construed as incitement to racial hatred and propaganda. In addition, the Committee expressed concern that such organizations are responsible for violence against persons belonging to minorities, and are not always hold accountable.

In January 2016, the site <http://azov.press> introduced information on raid on defining "illegal migrants" in Bila Tserkva.<sup>142</sup>

*"The activists of the Central Committee "AZOV" Kyiv region, together with the National Police continue to work on solving the problems of illegal migration — a cancer of today. We will force the foreigners to respect our Laws!"*

In November 2016, "Svoboda" NGO protested against the Deputy Minister for European integration of the capture EU quotas for resettlement of Syrian refugees in Ukraine.<sup>143</sup>

*"Ukraine in any case should perform all the whims of the European Union; we must go beyond our national interests. In the present circumstances to open the door for illegal immigrants is a crime against the state", said the leader of "Svoboda" Oleg Tyahnybok.*

A similar intolerant attitude, together with the active use of "hate speech" resulted in physical attacks on migrants. In April 2017, African student from Guinea who lives in Mariupol eight years, plays football there, claimed the attack on him and his friends from representatives of the regiment "Azov"<sup>144</sup>. The police accepted a statement about the attack only after office check of

141 [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUKR%2fCO%2f22-23&Lang=en)

142 <http://azov.press/ukr/rejd-po-viyavlennyyu-nelegal-nih-migrantiv>

143 <http://svoboda.org.ua/news/events/00111950/>

144 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqtLhBUoQ68>

actions started for law enforcers, who refused to accept statements from the student.

**On 21 May 2017, the head of public organization "National-Patriotic movement of Ukraine," Mykhaylo Kovalchuk, along with about 50 activists came to the restaurant of Lebanese and middle Eastern cuisine "Linas Cafe" in Kyiv and demanded to vacate the premises, in particular, for non-use of the Ukrainian language during the service by the personnel.**<sup>145</sup>

Mykhaylo Kovalchuk said that the staff of "Linas Cafe" not only does not speak Ukrainian, but also violate the consumer rights of customers. The day before the controversial action, he had a conflict with the waiter, who was asked to pay double price for the order, being at the restaurant at a table. Moreover, Kovalchuk claimed that after being along with his friend, they left the school and he was attacked with knives by the foreigners, among whom was the restaurant owner.

For what happened, the activist appealed to all concerned in his page on Facebook to picket "Linas Cafe" and force the owners to close the establishment. The event attracted about 50 people. The protesters were rude towards the employees of the café in particular they called them some "chump", "outsiders", and threatened with a pogrom.<sup>146</sup>

On May 23, 2017, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights opened the proceeding on the fact of **"hooliganism with the probable motive of national intolerance"**.<sup>147</sup> Ukrainian human rights organizations also issued a public statement about the inadmissibility of xenophobia and racism in Ukraine.<sup>148</sup>

*"The reason for the attack on the school is xenophobia against other nationalities. Although the organizers of the attack claimed that the reason for the attack*

<sup>145</sup> [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/u\\_kijevi\\_nacionalisti\\_zmushuvali\\_zakritisjia\\_livanskij\\_restoran\\_linas\\_safe\\_pid\\_zagrozoju\\_pogromiv](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/u_kijevi_nacionalisti_zmushuvali_zakritisjia_livanskij_restoran_linas_safe_pid_zagrozoju_pogromiv)

<sup>146</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/100009796243337/videos/475203786149492/>

<sup>147</sup> <http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/all-news/pr/vidkrito-provadzheniya-upovnovazhenogo-schodo-xuliganskix-dij-u-m-kiyevi/>

<sup>148</sup> <http://vostok-sos.org/zayava-shchodo-napadu-na-linas-cafe/>

*at the cafe could become a personal conflict, which probably occurred the day before between Mykhaylo Kovalchuk and employees of the café, it is clear that the attackers acted on the grounds of hatred towards a social group of people, using the hate speech, which is an indication of crimes of intolerance. Attackers, in particular, were distinguished by xenophobic chanting, like "a stranger, remember, a Ukrainian is a master here", and harassment of cafe personnel, which is clearly seen in a video released".*

Ukrainian society has a negative view of such manifestations of xenophobia and condemned the attack on the school. On 24 May 2017, a few hundred people visited Antipogrom concert in Kyiv in support of "Linaz Cafe" and condemnation of manifestations of xenophobia.<sup>149</sup>

**"What they mean by the word "Ukrainian", we do not perceive. We consider ourselves Ukrainians — Jews, Greeks, Roma, Crimean Tatars. We do not consider ourselves second-class citizens. And we disagree, we don't want it to be imposed on us",** said the organizers of Antipogrom concert.



Photo by Hromadske radio

<sup>149</sup> <https://hromadskeaudio.org/ru/news/2017/05/25/policiya-obicyaye-rozsliduvaty-vypadok-z-linas-safe-ale-vvazhayeyogo-huliganstvom-fotoreportazh>

The chief of Main Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kyiv said that police will take tough measures to prevent particularly mass manifestations of xenophobia. At the same time, on the incident in "Linax Cafe", the police opened criminal proceeding with preliminary qualification of hooliganism.

## 9. RESIDENTS OF DONBAS, CRIMEANS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AS OBJECTS OF HATE SPEECH"

The annexation of Crimea and the military actions in Donbas have created new objects of "hate speech" in Ukraine, residents of Donbas (of certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions not controlled by the Government), the inhabitants of the occupied Crimea and internally displaced persons (IDP).



Title photo. Photo by DEPO.ua

Examples of the use of "hate speech" against such objects can be seen in the submission of one online media, news content which was studied in the framework of monitoring — the popular resource "Obozrevatel".

We will give you one example without comments:

— **"You can get your lumps: on the network was issued a stern warning to residents of Donbas".**<sup>150</sup> Donbas residents, who come to Kyiv to

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/ukr/crime/52081-mozhna-otrimati-po-shaptsi-v-merezhi-vidali-suvore-poperedzhennya-zhitelyam-donbasu.htm>

study, should behave and follow their own statements about the situation in the temporarily occupied part of the country.

— **"Let it be Negroes, not only the ones from Donetsk": the real estate agent shocked Ukrainian journalist**<sup>151</sup>. Ukrainian journalist Yevhenii Spirin, who came to Kyiv from Donetsk, was shocked by the behavior of the realtor, who said that there are no apartments for "Donetsk and Luhansk" people. So, according to the woman, "Negros", children and animals do not confuse apartment owners, like IDPs. After that, there was also a TEXT message from the agent, in which she stated that "separations" are not needed in Kyiv.

— **"Did you come here for a passport?" Ukraine has prepared a "surprise" for collaborators from the Crimea**<sup>152</sup>. Ukrainian activists have prepared two types of billboards at the administrative border with the occupied Crimea — some designed for Ukrainian Crimeans and others for "collaborators-vatniks". The billboard in Russian addresses the Crimeans as traitors and offer them to travel only along the "Golden ring" of Russia, and, also, not to forget about the "stones from the sky".

Under all the publications, there are readers' comments with "hate speech", including incitement to discrimination. For example, the comments under the post regarding the "rules of conduct in Kyiv for students of Donbass" which offered ghetto to the youth, instead of universities.

**"To teach this infection sprawling across Ukraine? They are potential enemies and for them, no universities, but only the ghetto! ... electronic bracelets with built-in stun gun to every student of Donbass".**

Speaking more detailed on internally displaced persons, often in the texts the word "refugee" is legally justifiable "internally displaced persons". Citizens cannot be refugees in their own country, and persons who left Donbass or Crimea, are internally displaced, and the use of the term "refugees" for them is incorrect.

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/ukr/kiyany/life/08741-nehaj-i-negri-tilki-ne-donetski-rieltor-shokuvav-ukrainskogo-zhurnalista.htm>

<sup>152</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/ukr/society/05372-za-pasportom-priihali-v-ukraini-prigotuvani-syurpriz-dlya-kolaborantiv-z-krimu.htm>



Besides, there is negative field, which covers the life of displaced persons. Usually, they are remembered due to certain criminal acts, like theft, fighting, and intentional arsons. So, reporters form a negative image of persons from the armed conflict zone<sup>153</sup>.

**Trukhanov has dismissed the chief of security: a refugee from Donetsk, he was bad and did not work hard enough**<sup>154</sup>.

**A refugee from Donbass stole a bike near the church**<sup>155</sup>.

**A refugee from Donbass killed and robbed a man who accommodated him**<sup>156</sup>.

**An IDP from Donbas killed a citizen of Zaporozhzhia region**<sup>157</sup>.

In the panel discussion can be found analysis, and other aspects of "hate speech" in relation to internally displaced persons. So, in April 2016 in the site "Volyn Post" there was published an article called "refugees from the East demand to open additional Russian-language schools". News about how the local authorities of the Western regions are doing everything possible to make better lives of internally displaced persons, and those are constantly dissatisfied with something, though are still contemptuous of local residents.

"But even more people are outraged by cases of boorish attitude of refugees to Transcarpathia residents. Frequent are messages about the brutality of IDPs, who believe that Transcarpathia are "suckers"". In news, there are no sources of information, no alternative opinion. This may indicate a kind of stuffing, designed to worsen relations with the local population with displaced persons and negatively adjust people to the displaced persons. This idea is confirmed by the IMI expert Roman Kabachi: "The absence of refer-

153 <http://detector.media/infospace/article/128312/2017-07-18-tolerantnist-vs-nenavist-pidsumki-analizu-ukrainskikh-onlain-vidan-na-nayavnist-movi-vorozhnechi/>

154 <http://dumskaya.net/news/truhanov-uvolil-glavnogo-po-bezopasnosti-066855/>

155 <http://ck.ridna.ua/2015/09/22/bizhenets-z-donbasu-ukrav-velosyped-bilya-tserkvy/>

156 <https://dp.vgorode.ua/news/sobytyia/236058-bezhenets-yz-donbassa-ubyl-y-ohrabyl-pryuityvsheho-eho-muzhchynu>

157 <https://zp.depo.ua/ukr/zp/pereselenets-z-donbasu-vbiv-meshkantsya-zaporizkoyi-oblasti-01092015150300>



ences to sources of information, the complete disregard for fact checking can be attested to the fact that the material was published with malicious intent of a person or structure that used "Volyn Post" as a platform for sowing hatred in the Ukrainian society and between different regional communities"<sup>158</sup>. The news arose great interest in the network with corresponding very hostile reviews for the displaced persons. And after the reaction of the expert community in which the site was convicted for inciting hatred, by the evening of 21 April, the news was removed.



Photo Facebook

It is also possible to give an example, when human rights organizations protested against the remarks of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Arsen Avakov against the settlers, against whom he used "hate speech". This is stated in a joint statement, initiated by the Charity Fund "Vostok-SOS" and signed by several other human rights organizations, in particular, the Association of the Ukrainian monitors of observance of human rights in activities of law enforcement agencies, the Kharkiv Institute for social research and Centre for information on human rights<sup>159</sup>. The authors of the statement refer to posted on 23 September 2016 at the Ministry of interior material in which Arsen Avakov urged the Verkhovna Rada to support the bill on criminal offences.

<sup>158</sup> [http://osvita.mediasapiens.ua/ethics/standards/pro\\_pereselentsiv\\_zi\\_skhodu\\_y\\_vidchuttya\\_miri/](http://osvita.mediasapiens.ua/ethics/standards/pro_pereselentsiv_zi_skhodu_y_vidchuttya_miri/)

<sup>159</sup> [https://humanrights.org.ua/material/gromadski\\_organizaciji\\_zvinuvachujut\\_avakova\\_u\\_manipuljacijah\\_ta\\_vikoristanni\\_movi\\_vorozhnechi](https://humanrights.org.ua/material/gromadski_organizaciji_zvinuvachujut_avakova_u_manipuljacijah_ta_vikoristanni_movi_vorozhnechi)

According to the organizations, in his explanation regarding the factors affecting the increasing crime rate in the country, Avakov gave the manipulative and discriminatory statements concerning persons who have emigrated from the territory of Donetsk and Lugansk regions because of the armed conflict:

**"During the war, about a million refugees-migrants came to Kyiv from the territory of Donbass. Across the country two to three million people also create some issues. It is difficult to control in statistics",** — the press service of the Ministry of Interior quotes Avakov.

"Publicly stating that IDPs to be blamed for "worsening crime situation", the Minister has not provided any evidence of a causal connection between the processes of involuntary resettlement of a significant number of people from the East of our country and the general trend of rising crime", said the statement. According to the authors, these statements of the Minister are nothing but a use of hate speech, which creates an artificial distinction between citizens of Ukraine depending on their place of registration, and therefore it is unacceptable for officials of this level.

On 8 October 2016, Deputy head of the National police of Ukraine reported that in the areas with the largest number of IDPs has increased the number of thefts, actually inciting a negative attitude towards IDPs<sup>160</sup>. OHCHR raised this issue with representatives of the Ministry of Information Policy of the Ministry of the Temporarily Occupied Territories, expressing concern about discrimination, hate speech and the fact that such rhetoric is not conducive to further reconciliation<sup>161</sup>.

## 10. ETHNIC PROFILING IN THE MEDIA

**Disclosure in the media of ethnicity of suspects leads to the criminalization of representatives of the entire ethnic groups in the mass consciousness, primarily the Roma, and immigrants from the Caucasus.**

<sup>160</sup> [https://dt.ua/internal/viyna-na-kriminalnomu-fronti-\\_.html](https://dt.ua/internal/viyna-na-kriminalnomu-fronti-_.html)

<sup>161</sup> [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport16th\\_UKR.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport16th_UKR.pdf)



Screen Business companion. Ternopil

A cursory analysis of the materials of Ukrainian online publications for 2016 — 2017 in the search mode only a few key words ("Gypsies" "Roma" and "robbed") gave more than 30 publications with indication of Roma affiliation of the suspects. Most of the reports involve unknown persons having "Gypsy" or "Gypsy appearance" that is often illustrated by the relevant discriminatory images that have no relationship to the publication.

More than five of the allegations involved an incident with a robbery of a foreign student in Ternopil on 17 September 2017. All the titles of news posts have been indicating belonging to the Roma community with the use of the word "Gypsy": "In Ternopil' Gypsies robbed a foreign student"; "Gypsies robbed a foreign student near a market"; "On the street Zhivov three Gypsies had stolen the purse of a girl"; "Near the market Gypsies robbed a foreign student"<sup>162</sup>.

It is possible to cite several other examples:

**"In the center brazen Gypsies are robbing people"**<sup>163</sup>

**"The Roma are coming: in Transcarpathia openly robbed a man at the station"**<sup>164</sup> "Not only that — swarthy guys beat up the victim", **ZahidNews**

<sup>162</sup> <http://zz.te.ua/bilya-rynku-tsyhany-pohrabuvaly-inozemnu-studentku/>

<sup>163</sup> <http://lviv1256.com/news/u-tsentr-nahabni-tsyhany-obkradayut-lyudej/>

<sup>164</sup> <https://westnews.com.ua/tsigani-nastupayut-u-zakarpatti-vidkrito-pograbuvali-cholovika-na-vokzali/>

**informs with reference to press-service of Main Department of National Police in Zakarpattia region".**

**"In Kyiv two Gypsies, driving Suzuki Grand Vitara robbed an elderly lady"**<sup>165</sup> "Witnesses say it was two Roma women. Currently the investigation is ongoing, thieves are still not found."

**"Gypsies massively rob churches in Odesa oblast"**<sup>166</sup>

**"In Uzhhorod, three Gypsies stole a TV from a house and disappeared in the cart"**<sup>167</sup> "it is reported by the Office of the Patrol police of Uzhhorod and Mukachevo".

**"Gypsies have stolen from the owners on Zbarazhchyna 200 thousand hryvnias"**<sup>168</sup>

**"Cynically and rudely in Frankivsk a gypsy trapped a student by her apartment and robbed her house"**<sup>169</sup>

**At the Central Metropolitan railway station a gang of Gypsy thieves is wielding**<sup>170</sup>.

In some of the identified publications there is a link or reference to the press service of the police. In such cases, we can assume that the primary source of disclosure of the ethnicity of the suspects is namely the police. For example, according to the Department of communication of the police in Ternopil region on 5 September 2017, UAH 10,200 was stolen by unknown persons

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<sup>165</sup> <https://kiev.informator.ua/2017/11/07/v-kieve-dve-tsyganki-na-suzuki-grand-vitara-ograbili-babushku/>

<sup>166</sup> <https://informator.news/arhiv2016/?p=171613>

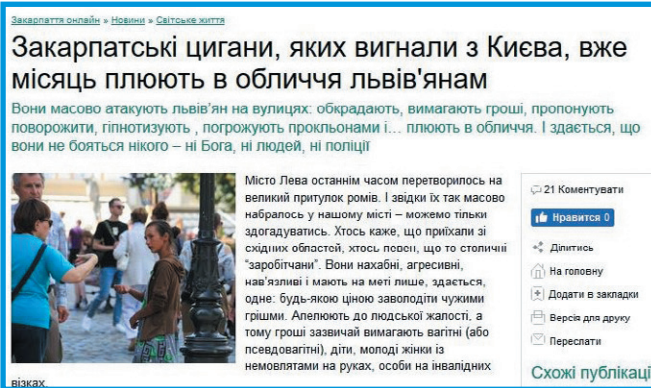
<sup>167</sup> <http://zakarpattya.net.ua/News/169892-V-Uzhhorodi-troie-tsyhaniv-vkraly-z-budynku-televizor-i-vtekly-na-vozi->

<sup>168</sup> <http://business-companion.te.ua/post/open/cigani-vkrali-v-gospodariv-na-zbarazhchini-200-tisyach-griven>

<sup>169</sup> <http://www.galka.if.ua/tsinichno-i-grubo-u-frankivsku-romka-pidsteregla-shkolyarku-pid-kvartiroyu-ta-pograbuvala-yyi-zhitlo/>

<sup>170</sup> <https://www.obozrevatel.com/kiyany/crime/79354-ih-kto-to-kryshuet-v-kieve-na-goryachem-zaderzhali-bandu-tsyigan.htm>

from the apartment of the inhabitant of the region. In the text it becomes clear that it was done by "a stranger Roma"<sup>171</sup>. Use of such a statement by the police, news agencies already provide material with the following title — "a house of a resident of Ternopil was robbed by Gypsies."<sup>172</sup>



Screen Transcarpathia online

You can also recall the case of the message on the website of the Prosecutor of Volyn region when Volyn journalists on web resource Volyn Post "improved" in some way what the media called incitement to ethnic hatred<sup>173</sup>.

The message of the Prosecutor's office on 7 July has the title "the Prosecutor's office of Khmelnytskyi region directed to the court indictment against members of an organized criminal group which in a roguish way took control of property of inhabitants of four regions of Ukraine worth over UAH 2.6 million". Only once in the message it mentioned that "a criminal group of persons of Roma nationality committed 18 crimes."

The newspaper "Volyn Post" reprinted this post on 8 July with a different title: "Tours" in Ukraine: Volyn Roma lured 2.6 million". In the text the word "Gypsy" is mentioned three times, and also at the end there is the tag "Gypsy", with which you can find some more materials, more than half of which show Roma

171 <http://old.npu.gov.ua/mvs/control/ternopil/uk/publish/article/203939>

172 <http://ternopil.te.ua/budynok-meshkantsya-ternopilschyny-pohrabuvaly-tsyhany/>

173 <https://www.volynnews.com/news/society/volyn-Post-zvynuvatyly-u-vidsutnosti-zhurnalistskoyi-etyky/>

in a very negative light. In addition, the text is accompanied by a photograph of an unknown Roma woman that obviously has no relation to the events described, and is taken at random to represent the stereotypical image of the Roma: it depicts crafty beggar with an outstretched hand.

The Chairman of the Commission on journalistic ethics Andrii Kulikov is sure that in the "Volyn Post" publication there are gross violations. "This is a clear violation of the standards of ethical journalism. It can be aimed at inciting ethnic hatred, because we see them as citizens or just people who break the law. Why do not we, for example, in another case, mention that it is Ukrainian or Russian ethnicity person? This could put a stigma on all people of this nationality in the perception of the audience."

The Executive Director of the Congress of national communities of Ukraine Tatyana Morada noted that such texts can only impede inter-ethnic relations in Ukraine. "They had no right to use these words, even mentioning the Roma community. It is unprofessional, incompetent journalism. They should be responsible for what they write. This leads to the closure of the Roma community itself. They do not want to be open to our society, because they feel pressure from our society. And journalists are precisely those people who form public opinion".

Human rights organizations indicate the prevalence and threat of disclosure of the ethnicity of the suspects. In particular, as pointed out by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in the report on the status of observance and protection of the rights and freedoms of people and citizens in Ukraine in 2015, during the preparation and submission of reports on committed criminal offences the law enforcement agencies continue to indicate the nationality or the ethnic background of persons suspected of committing offences<sup>174</sup>.

For example, the subject of the reaction of the Commissioner was a post of the head of the Department of the National police of counteraction of drugs crimes I. Kiva in Facebook, in which the official notes ("Gypsy") ethnicity of the suspected of drug traffickers of persons and also placed free their photos. In a letter to the Head of the National police of Ukraine the Commissioner for

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174 [http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid\\_2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/files/Dopovidi/Dopovid_2016_final.pdf)

Human Rights emphasized that there was no legitimate and objectively reasonable objective in pointing out the ethnicity of the suspects as described by I. Kiva, a situation not seen, and therefore it is discriminatory and unacceptable, as it leads to the imposition of a criminal stigma on the entire ethnic minority, which then has a negative impact on the attitude of the population.

In the summer of 2017, a similar situation occurred with the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Artem Shevchenko, who in conversation on Hromadske radio said: "We have a lot of citizens of other countries, including the Caucasus, the daily crime reports contains the data on detention of such persons for criminal offences, mainly of material nature: theft and so on. The same thing happens among our citizens-IDPs".

According to Iryna Fedorovych, human rights activist and Director of NGO "Center for social action," thus used calls for ethnic profiling and hate speech: "The accusation is formulated in such a way that it's like a daily police reports contain information solely about the property crimes committed by IDPs and citizens of the Caucasian countries.... This affects the creation of public or communal debate and public perceptions of people who belong to this ethnic group. This seems to be unintentional spread of information about the nationality of the people who commit crime but it may lead to the spread of enmity on national soil, to increase migrant-phobia in the public mind and supports misconceptions about people who belong to a certain nationality"<sup>175</sup>.

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<sup>175</sup> <https://hromadskeradio.org/programs/various/navishcho-policiya-vkazuye-nacionalnist-pidozryuvanyh-v-oficiynyh-povidomlennyah-pro-zlochyn>

## EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND PRACTICAL PROGRAMS TO COUNTER HATE SPEECH IN THE MEDIA.

From 10 to 16 November 2017, in the cities of Kherson, Chernivtsi and Odesa were held six one-day trainings, which were attended by 152 professional journalists, bloggers and students. This training made the first level of educational and practical programs for local journalists to counter hate speech. The results of the study showed that local journalists have a significant need for further systematic training on the subject of Hate speech.



*Training session with journalism students in Chernivtsi*

As noted by the trainer of educational training program, Valerii Bolhan (chief editor of "Izbirkom", coordinator of Odesa Center of public inquiries, lector of faculty of journalism of the National University "Odesa law Academy"), in general, even an interested audience has quite very vague idea of the criteria and markers of hate speech. The interest in the topic is very different in different regions. "Even media editors who know about the importance of combating hate speech is often more inclined to talk about it in a theoretical context. Moreover, the attitude to specific markers is very different in different regions. The most controversial is the theme of "war" and the attitude to such terms as "Moscovites", "Vata", "Katsaps",



*etc. In Kherson some of them are considered absolutely unacceptable, in Chernivtsi, on the contrary, many of them are considered quite valid to be used."*

**During the second half of November 2017, on a competitive basis were selected five participants, who were provided financial and expert support to small media initiatives in the sphere of combating hate speech. This competition became the second level of educational and practical program aimed at the greater motivation of participants for training practices and getting a number of independent media products in the sphere of combating hate speech in the local media.**

The aim of the competition was to draw attention, identification, condemnation and combat with the use of hate speech in the materials of local media, Internet and social networks. The main requirements of the contest were the implementation of initiative, aimed at preparing, creation and public offering of the media product in the area of combating hate speech in the materials of local media, Internet and social networks. A media product could be a journalistic investigation, analytical, informational and educational publications or reports in any form (text, video, audio, etc.); special programs on television or radio; special issues or publications of print media; videos; preparation of infographics (including but not limited to).

To participate in the competition participants of the first level of the educational program submitted 14 quality and interesting applications. The competition Committee of the educational — practical program had difficulty to identify specific initiatives for funding, but with the joint decision of the board it was recommended to provide financial and expert support to five initiatives (funding up to 9,000 UAH each).

**During November — December 2017 were successfully implemented five local journalism initiatives in the field of combating hate speech in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions. In addition to preparing journalistic products, there was wide public dissemination of media products and their public presentation or discussion. In addition, the experience and results of all initiatives were shown at the presentations of learning outcomes, which took place in the framework of the project at the end of December in Odesa and Kherson.**



*Yevheniia Virlych during the presentation of the initiative in Kherson.*

**Initiative "Overcoming hate speech from the temporarily occupied Crimea in the online resources of Kherson region".** Yevheniia Virlych, online publication visnik.ks.ua (Kherson region).

In the framework of the initiative was prepared the research report and three articles (with infographic) — studies of hate speech with temporarily occupied Crimea among the most popular online resources of Kherson region. The studies revealed the following aspects: the signs of hate speech in the online resources; identification and analysis of hate speech with temporarily occupied Crimea in the online resources of local authorities; development of recommendations on elimination of Hate speech in the online resources of Kherson region in relation to temporarily occupied Crimea. In particular, was revealed the frequent use of the term "refugees" instead of "migrants" or "internally displaced persons"; the harsh statements in the address of inhabitants of Crimea on ethnic and religious grounds; the indignation of the inhabitants of the mainland of Ukraine through the complication of documentation. The presentation took place on 28 December 2017 in the con-

ference hall "Kherson." The topic caught the interest of the journalists and some representatives of government bodies (Representative Office of the President of Ukraine in Crimea, the representatives of the Ministry of the issues of temporarily occupied territories).

**Initiative "Hate speech vs conscious choice: the danger and opposition."** Halas Oleksandr, the website "Otklyk" and the newspaper "Porto-Francko", Hladka Tamara, student, social activist (Odesa region).

In the framework of the initiative was held the analysis of materials containing manifestations of Hate speech — namely, lookism, sexism, ageism and xenophobia against politicians, deputies, officials. "We noticed that the focus of attention to the authorities in the aspect of how they dress, look, and where they go, does not contribute to public understanding of the assessment of their true role. And it affects the political choice of citizens." Based on studies there were prepared seven analytical articles involving experts, which were published in the local media. Presentation and discussion of the results of the initiative took place on 20 December 2017 at the office of Odesa regional organization National Union of journalists of Ukraine with the participation of journalists, students and NGOs activists. It was possible to initiate a public dialogue on the impact of hate speech on the objective evaluation of the work of media of powers and a conscious political choice of citizens, discussion of the mechanism of counteraction at legal and ethical level.

**The initiative "Gender (in)equality in Kherson — hate speech."** Ponomarenko, Kateryna, online edition, "Political Kherson region" (Kherson region).

The initiative was intended to show how at the local level is treated the principle of gender equality, national gender policy, women's and men's roles in society. Based on the conducted studies, were prepared individual media products: 3 viral videos of the results of a survey of three groups of citizens — ordinary Kherson citizens, deputies of Kherson city Council, experts on gender issues; a series of publications with problems and cases of use of hate speech regarding gender issue in Kherson. It was a theme in Kherson the media was raised for the first time and caused heated discussion. Many journalists of Kherson region and other regions watched videos and read articles and wondered whether they use hate speech on grounds of gender in their work.

**The initiative "Content analysis to counter hate speech prior to trial and investigation in Mykolaiv media".** Vyacheslav Holovchenko, "Gubernskaya nedelia" (Mykolaiv region).

In the framework of the initiative was held the analysis of content for the most popular Internet resources of the city of Mykolaiv about the use of hate speech while highlighting the investigation and court cases. A professional magazine for journalists "Media Detector" and a national information resource "Livyi bereh" published the article on the results of the study. In addition, the identified problems of the use of hate speech in the light of the investigation and the court cases were discussed with the students-journalists of two universities and of the press college. "Unfortunately, the vocabulary prior to trial and investigation is very incorrect. The opinion of law enforcement bodies and lawyers is broadcast with violation of journalistic standards. The problem is that Ukrainian journalists are unable to work as actual journalists at a courtroom. We will prepare training program — as a short program of additional training for the materials that come out of the court, was legally accurate and do not contain any emotions. Today for journalists to distort the facts about a court hearing or to label a judge "X" with various epithets — are not isolated cases."



*Vyacheslav Holovchenko during the presentation of the initiative in Odesa.*

**The initiative "No to hate speech in Ukrainian-Polish relations."** Yan Czarnecki, the website "Obozrevatel" and newspaper "Vikna" (Mykolaiv region).

In the framework of the initiative was prepared and distributed an article of several parts, which was aimed to replace hate speech with the language of mutual respect and mutual support in light of the Ukrainian-Polish relations by the media. More than 70 thousand users of the Internet have read this information product. The Polish version of the text was sent to the Polish "Gazeta Wyborcza" for publishing. In addition, the results of the initiative was presented in Kalush (the Central city library), Mykolaiv (the newspaper "Ukrainian South") and Kherson (the Crisis media center).

**ODESSA REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ALL-UKRAINIAN NGO “COM-  
MITTEE OF VOTERS OF UKRAINE”**

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The book is published in Ukrainian and English, in printed and electronic versions and distributed free of charge.

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