

# INACH

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights



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2024

## Annual Report 2024

[www.inach.net](http://www.inach.net)

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## International Network Against Cyber Hate – INACH

INACH was founded in 2002 to use intervention and other preventive strategies against cyber hate. The member organisations are united in a systematic fight against cyber hate, for example as complaints offices, monitoring offices, or online help desks. In their respective countries, they provide important contacts for politicians, internet providers, educational institutions, and users.

Funding for INACH is provided by its members, the European Commission, and other donors. The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) unites multiple organisations from the EU, Israel, Russia, South America, Africa and the United States. While starting as a network of online complaints offices, INACH today pursues a multidimensional approach of educational and preventive strategies.

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## **Introduction**

This annual report will explain the activities conducted this year by INACH.

First, we will describe the main events we organized: the bi-annual webinars, the Annual Conference, the Member's Assembly and the Roundtables with social media.

Then, we will give an update on our corporate outreach efforts, the online training and our awareness-raising efforts. It will be followed by a description of the Shadow Monitoring Exercise conducted by INACH and its members and partners – since there was no general Monitoring Exercise this year – and we will give an update on the SafeNet Project. Finally, we will present our new member and give an overview of their activities. We hope that with this report, people interested in our work can gain a proper overview of and a deeper, more substantial insight into the workings of INACH's Secretariat and the network as a whole. We hope to bring the network closer to the public, which will, in turn, help us to bring the online in line with human rights.

## 1. Events

INACH organised several different events in 2024: the annual conference, the members' meeting, the roundtables with social media companies, and the biannual webinars. The content of discussions during the members' meetings and roundtables was confidential, but a full report on the annual conference can be found on our [website](#).

### Webinars

The two bi-annual member webinars, one by Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) and one by the Never Again Association, were organised in March and June of 2024. The goal of the webinars is to shine a light on the work our members do and share information with the network.

The first webinar of the year by FOA took place on 6 March 2024 on the mission to combat antisemitism. The webinar focused on gaining insights into FOA's mission and its strategic approaches to counter antisemitism online. It explored the various definitions of hate speech as recognised by social media platforms and taught effective search tools and techniques for identifying and reporting antisemitic content on social networks effectively. Participants received guidance on identifying different types of content and nuances between legitimate content and content violating social media community guidelines.

The second webinar by the Never Again Association was held on 5 June 2024 with the title 'Delete racism: a voice from East-Central Europe. The experiences of the NEVER AGAIN Association in fighting online hate'. Since the early 2000s, 'NEVER AGAIN' has run the 'Racism Delete' campaign to combat racism and antisemitism on the Internet. The Association takes part in international projects to counteract online hate speech, such as 'Get The Trolls Out' and 'SafeNet'. It has actively participated in international civil society networks, including the Alliance Against Genocide (AAG), the European Network for Countering Antisemitism through Education (ENCATE), Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE), the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), the Global Alliance Against Digital Hate and Extremism (GADHE), and the European Network for Solidarity with Ukraine (ENSU). During the webinar, they shared their experiences and observations on fighting online hate with a particular focus on transnational cooperation in the field of dealing with cyber hate on major social media platforms.

## Annual Conference

The INACH Annual Conference 2024, titled “Artificial Intelligence and the Changing Legal Climate,” was held on September 27th at the Rubin Wellness & Conference Hotel in Budapest, Hungary – hosted by the two Hungarian member organisations Háttér Society and the Subjective Values Foundation. The event brought together over 75 participants, both in person and virtually, to discuss the challenges, dangers, and opportunities connected to Artificial Intelligence and Online Hate Speech, as well as the new regulatory climate to hate speech, disinformation, and AI.

The conference featured a diverse agenda, including two keynote speakers, a panel, a presentation, three breakout rooms and two networking fairs to connect as many organisations, companies and individuals as possible. The event kicked off after a welcome address by board member Dr. Steffen Eisentraut and was followed by the keynote speech by Dr. Julia Ebner, a well-known and renowned researcher and author, speaking about how extremism goes viral. Agustina Callegari from the World Economic Forum opened the panel with a talk about collaborative approaches to navigating digital harms, after which the panel discussion on ‘Preventing and Addressing the Use of AI Technologies in Spreading Hate’ took place with Omny Miranda Martone, Founder and CEO of the Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA), Elena Haig, a Legal and Policy officer at the European Commission, Sigurdur Ragnarsson, the CEO of Videntifier and Marcus Scheiber from the research project Decoding Antisemitism, and Dr. Selma Muhič Dizdarevič of INACH as moderator. After awarding the Never Again Association and FOA with the Ronald and Suzette Award by Magenta, the showcasing of INACH’s Cyber Hate Neutralisation Hub and the first Networking event of the day, the afternoon session started with a presentation by Julie Heezius from the SafeNet Project, presenting its findings and discussing impacts of the DSA.

A new feature of the summit was the three Breakout rooms on the DSA and Trusted Flagger from a national DSC perspective, Algorithmic transparency and the industry’s response to online hate, for which participants could sign up in advance for one of these. These aimed at more interaction between presenters and participants to facilitate a more intimate and interactive environment for discussion.

Here is the full [report](#) on the Annual Conference. Here you can find the [Agenda, Speaker Biographies and more](#).

## Members Meeting

The INACH Annual Members Assembly 2024 was held on September 26th at the Rubin Wellness & Conference Hotel in Budapest, Hungary – one day before the Conference. The event brought together many of our members in person to network and update each other. The members' meeting aimed to discuss the network's progress and exchange knowledge and best practices. The different backgrounds and focuses of the member organisations enabled fruitful and insightful discussions. The assembly's agenda included a welcome address by INACH's General Manager Tamás Berecz, the introduction of the newest member, the Academy of Political Studies (APS), networking time and an open floor for updates and exchange as well as a presentation by jugendschutz.net which was followed by a Q&A session. Finally, a brainstorming session on working groups was held. Unfortunately, the planned briefing from Andrea Cox of DigiQ on the current precarious situation in Slovakia and the presentation by Nir Kaplan of Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) could not take place.

The event emphasised the importance of sharing the different situations and challenges in different countries from organisations with various focal points. It also showcased the benefits of networking and the possibilities of collaborating within a network that operates under the united goal of creating a safer online space free from any kind of hate and discrimination that respects and enforces human rights.

## Social Media Roundtables

INACH held a roundtable between TikTok and INACH members in April 2024 on the issue of anti-Roma hate.

In November 2024, INACH hosted a major online roundtable with several social media platforms and the CSO sphere. The advocacy event aimed further to improve cooperation between the platforms and anti-hate speech NGOs, share best practices, provide policy input to the companies and receive updates on their policy changes and reporting features. The platforms responded to various questions collected during our partners' work. Five companies participated (Microsoft, X, Google, Meta, TikTok). They gave short presentations on topics they felt were important to address, and there was ample space for NGOs to discuss any questions and issues related to hate speech on social media platforms.

## 2. Training

Throughout the year, people have been signing up to follow the online training. If you are interested, you can find the training [here](#).

Also in 2024, INACH participated in different conferences, workshops, and get-togethers worldwide to educate people about online hate speech, the DSA, and other related topics. Here are a few examples:

- INACH participated in the Conference of Political Capital in January 2024.
- INACH attended a meeting organised by the Dutch Ministry of Justice in January 2024 to give input on their national plan against online hate
- INACH attended the LEAD conference in Brussels in February 2024.
- INACH participated in the CEPOL Conference in April 2024 in Budapest.
- INACH attended a get-together organised by the Dutch Digital Service Coordinator ACM in April 2024
- INACH attended and participated as a speaker during two different RAN events: in Barcelona in May 2024 and Rotterdam in April 2024
- INACH participated in two EPNA workshops: In Budapest in April 2024 and in Belgrade in November 2024.
- INACH attended and participated as a speaker in different sessions during the No Hate Speech Week in June 2024, organised by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.
- INACH gave a speech to the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in June 2024.
- INACH co-presented a study session with CEJI and ENIL in Strasbourg in June 2024
- INACH attended the FRISCO Project Final Conference "Fighting Terrorist Content Online: Progress, Challenges & Perspectives" in Brussels in October 2024.
- INACH participated in the SafeNet Project Final Conference in Brussels in November 2024.
- INACH attended the ENCATE Network Meeting in Milan in November 2024.



### 3. Corporate outreach

Combating hate and discrimination online requires a multi-faceted and holistic approach with many different levels of involvement. INACH has continued to focus on reaching out to companies in 2024 to partner on various initiatives and fundraising. We have continued to work with our current partners and further strengthened our relationships, and we have started connecting with different organisations and engaging new partners.

INACH continued its partnership with Textgain during 2024, working on the Cyber Hate Neutralization Hub that was set up by INACH and Textgain. This cutting-edge technology was launched in 2024 and maps the workings of bots that spread hate and fake news and unearths the originators of online hate and conspiracy theories.

We strengthened our partnership with TikTok and Google, our largest supporters outside the EC. Thanks to their generosity, we could carry out our full strategic plan this year, which included organising our annual conference in Budapest. We have developed a solid relationship with TikTok and expect to grow our partnership with them in 2025. INACH also continues to engage and further develop our relationships with Meta, Microsoft, and LinkedIn.

INACH cooperated with the company Tremau via the European project FRISCO – Fighting Terrorist Content Online, which aimed to support Hosting Service Providers in complying with the new Terrorist Content Online Regulation. The project kicked off on 18 November 2022 in Athens, at the coordinator's NCSR Demokritos premises and held its final conference in October 2024 featuring many speakers and panel discussions and presenting some of its findings. The project closed in mid-November 2024. Terrorist and other illegal content online is an increasing issue both from a security and public policy perspective. As a response, the Terrorist Content Online ("TCO") Regulation addresses violent extremism and the dissemination of such content, setting out specific measures that Hosting Service Providers ("HSPs") exposed to TCO must implement.

Find all resources, reports and further information on the [FRISCO project website](#).

Knowing that online hate affects everyone worldwide, INACH identified organisations and foundations across the world to connect with. We have conducted outreach with organisations in the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Serbia. INACH continues to research and identify potential partners globally.

## 4. Awareness raising online

The INACH Secretariat has been working on various campaigns to raise awareness of hate speech online. Below is an explanation of these campaigns.

However, this year, it has been difficult to have campaigns approved for Facebook and Instagram. Many times, our campaign requests were rejected. Also, due to the changes on Twitter/X, we had fewer campaigns because we had to re-strategise our approach on the platform.

Alongside the campaigns, the Secretariat created content to make the issue of online hate more accessible in the form of GIFs, memes, quotes, topical International Days and Throwback Thursdays and shared news articles and/or reports of hate speech online. We also provided videos recorded by INACH members to showcase their organisations. Furthermore, we presented the first results of our Hub on social media and promoted videos about introducing the Hub and cooperating with our partner on this, MOD. Finally, INACH shared all kinds of news about INACH members and their work. Again, we recorded podcasts with our members and other speakers during the annual conference to be used in 2025. We also shared regular updates on the results of the SafeNet project.

**1. Training:** We promoted the final version of the LYM training online to attract participants who would be interested in following the course.

**2. Newsletter:** To keep our relationships up to date, the INACH Secretariat has continued the newsletter. This was also promoted on our social media channels to reach those we do not yet reach by email or who are not yet familiar with the INACH network.

**3. Webinars:** In 2024, INACH organised two webinars, which members, contacts, and people outside the network attended. Both webinars were advertised through an online campaign to reach a larger audience.

**4. Reports:** The various reports produced by the Secretariat were promoted to raise interest in the Secretariat's activities: The 'DSA Shadow Report 2024' focuses on the impact of the DSA on our work in preventing and combating hate speech online, the Annual Conference Report gives an overview of all presentations during the conference, the Monitoring Report shows the results of the Monitoring Exercise 2024, and finally, this Annual Report describes the activities of INACH and its members in 2024.

**5. Events:** A teaser was made to announce the Annual Conference, which was posted to attract as many participants as possible. In preparation for the Annual Conference, we posted several posts with relevant information about speakers, the programme, and the event in general to shed light on the speakers and the topics of the conference. During the conference, we posted content to attract interest and show behind-the-scenes

footage. The Mental Health Week is a yearly online event that lasts a week. This year, INACH shared posts on seven days in September 2024 on how to deal with mental health and care for oneself. We shared videos of the INACH members whenever possible to introduce them and highlight their work.

**6. Other:** We participated in the communication campaign to promote the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme set up by the EC: the 'No Hate Speech' campaign. We have continued our own formats, such as the #INACHDictionary posts, where we explain relevant terms associated with our work (e.g. Online Hate, Trusted Flagger, Deep Fake), or the #INACHReadingTip post, where we share articles worth reading, and International Special Days, where we draw attention to days such as International Human Rights Day or International Day for Tolerance. Furthermore, alongside promoting our Annual Conference we shared photos and information from other conferences INACH took part in.

We have continued to endeavour to grow our following on all of our social media accounts and have managed to gradually expand it. We post frequently and regularly, publishing an average of 3 to 5 posts per week and even more during events.

## 5. Monitoring online hate

Monitoring online hate is one of INACH's main pillars. We divide our work between the ME and the SafeNet project.

### Shadow Monitoring Exercise

This year, the regular annual Monitoring Exercise organised by the European Commission was postponed. However, INACH and the other partners organised a Shadow Monitoring Exercise with its partners from the 9th of September until the 18th of October 2024. Twenty organisations participated in the shadow Monitoring Exercise from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. You can find the results of the Monitoring Exercise [here](#).

### SafeNet project

INACH participated in the 24-month 'SafeNet: Monitoring and Reporting for Safer Online Environments' project. The project aimed to apply a comprehensive and intersectional approach to prevention and fight against intolerance, racism and xenophobia online.

Over the past 18 months, the SafeNet consortium, consisting of 21 CSOs from 19 EU countries, has monitored and documented over 19,000 hate speech cases across 19 European languages and English. Many partners are Trusted Flaggers and have taken part in monitoring exercises within the scope of the Code of Conduct to counter illegal hate speech online.

The project focused on continuous monitoring and reporting hate speech content to IT companies and responsible authorities, and on awareness-raising by regular advocacy towards the social media companies, providing consolidated and interpreted data to national authorities as well as running national bi-monthly information campaigns involving different stakeholders, including IT Companies, public authorities, civil society organisations and media.

In November 2024, the consortium hosted its final project conference in Brussels and online. The event brought together civil society organisations (CSOs), IT companies, EU and national authorities and international bodies to explore the latest trends and developments in online hate speech.

**Key findings** from the SafeNet project were presented, including:

- Analysis of general hate speech drivers and specific insights from social media platforms across different countries.
- Data on hate speech removal rates and response times.
- Common challenges identified through monitoring activities.

During the Q&A and networking sessions, participants emphasised the importance of continuous monitoring for effective advocacy and successful implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) and EU strategic initiatives. A cross-sectoral approach was recognised as essential to reducing online hate speech.

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More information and resources can be found [here](#) and the Final Report is linked [here](#).

## 6. New Member

INACH is proud to welcome a new member this year. They presented themselves during the members' meeting and participated in the Annual Conference, but we would like to introduce them here again.

### Academy of Political Studies (APS)

Established in 2009 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the Academy of Political Studies (APS) offers an effective and flexible mechanism for empowering political dialogue and the contribution of civic and political leaders to the democratic transformation agenda in Albania.

The APS activities comprise two main groups: the training and capacity building accomplished mainly through two main programmes:

- “The Albanian School of Political Studies” (ASPS) is operational since 2007. It focuses on knowledge transfer, training, and idea generation by engaging young politicians, elected leaders, public administrators, and civil society leaders. As an implementer of this programme, APS is part of a wider CoE network of 20 schools of political studies established in 1992 with the view to train future generations of political, economic, social and cultural leaders in countries in transition.
- “Training Programme for Local Authorities” offers targeted training to senior local government officials with the view to build capacities and exchange experience among local government units. Mayors and local public officials have the opportunity to gather beyond political and geographical boundaries, to share best practices on solutions to their daily challenges.

Other programs designed and implemented by the APS aim to foster public dialogue and participation at a central and local level in view of the European integration process and democratic reforms in Albania.

- Since 2019, APS has developed its expertise in providing research, capacity building and influencing the national policy on countering the violent extremism in Albania. In line with the Albanian National Strategy Countering Violent Extremism and Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Terrorism 2021-2025, APS has supported the establishment of a reporting mechanism National register of online platforms with illegal content.

In the same vein, since 2022, APS initiated the establishment of the “Trusted Flaggers Network” and continues to provide support to the network to foster their collaboration

with state agencies and online platform providers (Meta, X, Youtube, TikTok) for the quick and efficient detection and removal of online illegal content inciting to hate speech, radicalisation, and violent extremism ([www.rsb.asp.al](http://www.rsb.asp.al)).

For the implementation of these activities, APS is a trusted partner of the main public actors in the sector as the National Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE Center), Albanian State Police, and the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security" (NAECCS).

Here you can find out more: [APS Website](#).

## 7. Our Members' Main Activities in 2024

Please find a description here of the main activities in 2024 from some of our members.

### **Academy of Political Studies, Albania**

Albanian Trusted Flaggers joins efforts against cyber hate:

In February 2024 the Albanian Academy of Political Studies joined the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) as the newest member.

This membership of ASP, as the umbrella organization for the "Trusted Flaggers Network" in Albania, provides an additional opportunity for the fast reporting and removal of harmful material on social networks. Over 15 trusted flaggers benefited from training to identify hate speech and violent extremism as well as being represented in the annual INACH conference in Budapest in September.

In November, thanks to the support of INACH, the network was granted the status of TikTok community partners, providing the opportunity to report in a privileged manner the violent and extremist content.

In the first days of the operation of this partnership, 408 links were reported to TikTok with content that incites violence, hate speech or radicalization of young people on this platform, ensuring the blocking of this content within 48 hours of reporting.

ASP is coordinating further cooperation with state authorities in the country, such as the National Cyber Security Authority (AKSK) and the Center Against Violent Extremism (CVE Center), on the identification and blocking of illegal material online.

### **CEJI, Belgium**

- In June 2024, CEJI published the Facing Facts policy brief on the DSA.  
"In 2023, Facing Facts Network members raised questions about the impact the DSA would have on their monitoring and response activities regarding online

hate speech. In response, the Facing Facts Secretariat developed and disseminated a survey from January to February 2024 to better understand the experiences and concerns of Facing Facts Network members and other organisations working in this field. This briefing aims to reflect their perspective and offer contextualised analysis and recommendations.

Our analysis shows a lack of information on DSA implementation at the national level, with implications for hate speech monitoring and responses. The apparent lack of industry knowledge of the Digital Services Coordinators appointed so far, combined with the process of appointing official Trusted Flaggers under the DSA, risks undermining the contribution, knowledge and network of civil society organisations that developed under the Code of Conduct of the previous regime.”

The full brief is available here:

<https://www.facingfacts.eu/facing-facts-policy-brief/>

- On 3rd September 2024, Melissa Sonnino, Facing Facts Network Director, opened the DSA Webinar, featuring experts from the European Commission, civil society organisations, and public authorities to discuss the implications of the Digital Services Act on hate speech responses. If you missed the DSA Webinar, you can find the news article [here](#).

## **Greek Helsinki Monitor, Greece**

### **1. Combatting Digital Hate & Extremism**

Greek Helsinki Monitor’s (GHM) main activity in 2023-2024 was participating in the EU-funded 24-month project [“SafeNet: Monitoring and Reporting for Safer Online Environments”](#). SafeNet’s main goal has been the continuous monitoring of the IT platforms’ adherence to the EU Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online with submission of reports of hate speech to the IT, the large majority of which has led the platforms to remove the posts or suspend the accounts reported. Of the 1,096 reports between January 2023 and June 2024, it was a 75%+ removal rate and of the hate speech reasons invoked two-thirds were advocacy of Nazism and Holocaust denial among others. Since June 2024, some 350 more reports have been made with similar results.

### **2. Litigating cases of hate speech and hate crimes**

A 25 October 2023 [response to a parliamentary question](#) that opposition party SYRIZA kindly agreed to submit on 4 October 2023 upon GHM’s request is reproduced below in a screenshot with GHM translation of the texts in Greek. In the nine-year period 10/9/2014 - 30/9/2023, following the introduction of Law 4285/2014, which amended Law

927/1979, there were 1,280 criminal cases for racist hatred and racist violence. Some 1,000 of them were submitted mainly to the Athens Prosecutor by the GHM, and some 100 of them were transferred from the Athens Prosecutor to other Prosecutors because of local competence. This means that some 85% of these cases were submitted by GHM and very few were in fact launched ex officio by Prosecutors or Police. Most importantly, there were only 93 convictions and 84 acquittals, while some 165 trials were pending. It should be added that several convictions at first instance were overturned on appeal; this has occurred in more trials since August 2021.

In addition, in 2024, there were four judgments leading to convictions for racist crimes following GHM complaint reports that are listed below, plus a judgment awarding compensation to a Rom for ill-treatment in a case started by GHM; while, also in 2024, the Athens Prosecutor for Racist Crimes opened 10 case files and launched preliminary investigations following submissions by GHM (5 for antiziganism, 4 for homophobia and 1 for antisemitism).

ΥΠΟΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΡΑΤΣΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΒΙΑΣ ΑΠΟ 10-9-2014 ΕΩΣ 30-9-2023									
CASES OF RACIST VIOLENCE FROM 10-9-2014 TO 30-9-2023									
						ΑΠΟΦΑΣΕΙΣ DECISIONS			
	Σύνολο εισερχομένων μηνύσεων Total incoming complaints	Ρητορική μίσους Hate speech	Ρατσιστική βία Racist violence	Αρχειοθετήθηκαν Filed to the archives	Προκαταρκτική εξέταση (επεξεργασία) Preliminary examination (in process)	Καταδικαστικές Convictions	Αθωωτικές Acquittals	Άλλες * Other *	Προς εκδίκαση Trials pending
ΕΙΣΑΓΓΕΛΙΕΣ ΕΦΕΤΩΝ Appeals Prosecutors	17	4	13	0	0	4	3	4	6
ΕΙΣΑΓΓΕΛΙΕΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΔΙΚΩΝ First Instance Prosecutors	1263	543	720	650	121	89	81	163	159

\*παύει υφ' όρων, ανάκληση της έγκλησης, διαβιβάζει λόγω αρμοδιότητας κτλ. \*conditional quashing, recall of complaint, transfer to other jurisdiction because of local competence, etc.

On 11 March 2024, the Athens First Instance Administrative Court published a [judgment](#) finding “excessive police violence and inadequate investigation of his criminal complaint” [submitted by GHM] against a Rom that “violated the national legislation and the substantive and procedural aspects of Article 3 ECHR causing damage to his personality and moral damage” awarding him 5,000 euros.

On 7 August 2024, the Supreme Court rejected the application for cassation of a [conviction](#) (both at first instance and on appeal) of a newspaper for incitement to racial hatred against Pakistanis to a suspended 6-month prison sentence and 5,000 euros fine with a front page article on 28 March 2017. The case was initiated by a GHM complaint report.

On 10 October 2024, an Athens Single-Member Misdemeanors’ Court [convicted](#) a bus driver to a suspended 8-month prison sentence for unlawful violence with racist motives against a migrant on 6 May 2021. The case was initiated by a GHM complaint report.



On 20 November 2024, a Thessaloniki Single-Member Misdemeanors' Court [convicted](#) each of 17 persons to 39-month prison sentences and 5,000 euros fines (sentences suspended until the appeals trial) for unlawful violence, jointly, systematically and repeatedly, with racist motives, as well as public incitement to violence and hatred, repeatedly, against refugees while no mitigating circumstances were recognized, on 22 October 2019 in Vrasna, Thessaloniki. The case was initiated by two GHM complaint reports.

On 25 November 2024, a Thessaloniki Three-Member Misdemeanors' Court [convicted](#) a football fan to a suspended 7-month prison sentence for unlawful violence with racist motives against a migrant on 18 April 2020. The case was initiated by a GHM complaint report; on 11 October 2022, a Thessaloniki Single-Member Misdemeanors' Court had acquitted the defendant, but an appeal was filed following a request by GHM to the Supreme Court Prosecutor on the same day. This is the largest sentence ever imposed for racist crimes in Greece.

### **3. Communication to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the execution of ECtHR judgments**

[Communication](#) from GHM on 14 October 2024 concerning the cases of Bekir-Ousta and Others and House of Macedonian Civilization and Others v. Greece (Applications No. 35151/05, 1295/10) (Bekir-Ousta and Others group)

### **4. Submissions to UN Treaty Bodies reviewing Greece and Cyprus in 2024**

GHM Minority Rights Group - Greece (MRG-G), Humanist Union of Greece (HUG), and Coordinated Organizations and Communities for Roma Human Rights in Greece (SOKADRE): "[Parallel Report](#) on Greece's compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" dated 2 January 2024

GHM: "[Parallel Report](#) on Cyprus' compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" dated 15 January 2024.

GHM, Minority Rights Group - Greece (MRG-G), Humanist Union of Greece (HUG), and Coordinated Organizations and Communities for Roma Human Rights in Greece (SOKADRE): "[Parallel Report](#) on Greece's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" dated 16 September 2024.

GHM: Submission to the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) for its upcoming visit to Greece (6-17 October 2024) dated 3 October 2024 [confidential] GHM, Minority Rights Group - Greece (MRG-G), Humanist Union of Greece (HUG), and Coordinated Organizations and Communities for Roma Human Rights in Greece (SOKADRE): "[Parallel Report](#) on Greece's

compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination” dated 31 October 2024.

GHM: “[Supplementary submission](#) on Greece to the UN Human Rights Committee and to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,” dated 1 November 2024.

### **5. Third-party interventions in ECtHR cases**

GHM: “Third-party intervention in the cases of United Macedonian Organisation Ilinden and Others against Bulgaria & 9 other applications,” dated 27 June 2024.

GHM: “Third-party intervention in the case of Muhammad v. Greece” [death of an asylum seeker before crossing the Evros River Greek-Turkish border] dated 18 November 2024.

### **6. Applications to the ECtHR adjudicated or registered after preliminary admissibility decisions.**

[Application no. 44758/20](#) “Athanasios PANAYOTOPOULOS and Others against Greece” lodged by GHM on 30 September 2020 and communicated to Greece on 18 March 2021 concerning the ill-treatment of three Roma – judgment pending.

[Application no. 40911/21](#) “Communication and Political Research Society against Greece” lodged by GHM on 2 August 2021 and communicated to Greece on 15 December 2023 concerning inadequate compensation by domestic courts for excessive length of the proceedings – judgment pending

In addition, the ECtHR has preliminary declared admissible and registered 15 other applications (of which 6 in 2024) submitted by GHM, of which one jointly with a lawyer of the Istanbul Bar Association and another jointly with the Greek Council for Refugees, all of which are awaiting communication to Greece. Four concern inadequate compensation by domestic courts for excessive length of the proceedings, three concern pushbacks of asylum seekers (one fatal for the victim), and eight various violations of GHM members’ rights.

### **7. Persecution of GHM members**

In the [European Parliament resolution of 7 February 2024 on the rule of law and media freedom in Greece](#) it is mentioned inter alia “The European Parliament,... Q. whereas Panayote Dimitras, a human rights activist and founder and head of the GHM, is being prosecuted for illegal trafficking even though it appears that he was acting lawfully to provide humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers; whereas in December 2022, he was handed down a fine and prohibited from being involved with the GHM; whereas the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights voiced concerns about the case; whereas the Anti-Money Laundering Authority ordered the freezing of all of Dimitras’s assets in May 2023;

whereas Dimitras stated on 31 May 2023 that he had only received EU funding designated for combating hate speech and that the funds were only used for that purpose; whereas the recent acquittal of 16 aid workers and volunteers demonstrates that criminal charges against those providing humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers have no legal basis;... 18. Is concerned by the attacks against civil society and, in particular, smear campaigns and judicial harassment by Greek authorities targeting human rights activists; is alarmed by the recent trials against humanitarian workers and people who provide humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees; calls on the Greek authorities to drop all charges immediately and ensure that humanitarian workers and volunteers can provide assistance safely and freely;" The Government's response signed by the Minister of Justice and tabled in Parliament by the Prime Minister included the false claim that Panayote Dimitras was arrested in Kos; on 25 April 2024 he filed a [complaint](#) against both for breach of duty, aggravated defamation, as well as violation of Article 18 ECHR. The Supreme Court's response included the false claim that Panayote Dimitras had telephone conversations with the traffickers while the asylum seekers were still in Turkey before they started their journey to Greece: on 9 April 2024 he submitted the rebuttal [Comments on "Minutes and Decision of the Administrative Plenary of the Supreme Court 2/2024" and Request for Action](#) in which also all abusive and unlawful actions against him were documented asking the Supreme Court leadership who had signed the response to examine all these alleged violations of the guarantees of fair trial so that the provisions of the rule of law can be applied and to establish the violations of the guarantees of fair trial so that his criminal prosecution be terminated and the freezing of his bank account be lifted, as well as impose criminal and disciplinary sanctions on those who had violated the guarantees of a fair trial, and indeed repeatedly, with the aim, not of course to deliver justice, but to smear him and obstruct his work as a human rights defender. The Supreme Court snubbed the submission. The ban on continuing his work was lifted. However, the ban to travel abroad was maintained despite repeated formal requests to have it lifted, inter alia, so Panayote Dimitras can attend in the fall of 2024 the UN Human Rights Committee and UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviews on Greece. The abusive freezing of Panayote Dimitras' account and the criminal investigation for alleged misuse of 178.666,80 euros donated to GHM in 2010-2015 by private donors, which, though were used for the NGO's expenses, are detailed in the comprehensive Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders [statement](#) "Greece: Continued judicial harassment of migrants' rights defender Panayote Dimitras" dated 14 August 2024. In the latest development, Panayote Dimitras and his wife and fellow GHM advocate Nafsika Papanikolotou were summoned on 31 May 2024 by an Athens Magistrate carrying out a preliminary criminal investigation into alleged breach of trust and money laundering, following the opening of a criminal case by the Athens First

Instance Prosecutor following the aforementioned report of the Anti-Money Laundering Authority. They replied to the summons, and their file has been in the hands of the Athens First Instance Prosecutor since then.

Moreover, an Athens Three-Member Misdemeanors' Court trial of Panayote Dimitras for "false accusation" and "aggravated defamation" in his complaint against a Mayor who had made racist anti-refugee comments led to an acquittal on 17 April 2024 (see the aforementioned Observatory's [statement](#)). However, a Prosecutor appealed against the acquittal, and Panayote Dimitras is scheduled to be tried again by an Athens Three-Member Appeals Court on 19 February 2025. That mayor's related lawsuit seeking 25,000 euros for moral damages is pending before the courts. On the contrary, on 20 October 2023, an Athens Multi-Member First Instance Court with Judgment 3577/2023 ruled that a GHM complaint against the leader of a Greek Marine Le Pen-affiliated party who had called asylum seekers entering Greece "illegal plunderers" was libellous and awarded him 3,000 euros for moral damage (he had asked for 120,000 euros). Panayote Dimitras' appeal before the Athens Three-Member Appeal Court is scheduled to be heard on 18 September 2025. The GHM criminal complaint reports against the Mayor and the far-right politician for their racist statements had been previously filed to the archives.

During the UN Human Rights Committee review of Greece [on 22 October 2024](#), a Committee member asked: "The state party unfortunately did not provide explicit information yet on attacks against human rights defenders or on related investigations. The Committee continues to receive information that human rights defenders, especially those working with migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and those reporting on pushbacks, are regularly subjected to smear campaigns, harassment, threats and criminal prosecution. A widely reported case is that of Mr. Panayote Dimitras, a human rights defender from the GHM who has faced legal harassment and criminal charges despite his actions being lawful and aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers. According to the information we have, he continues to face restrictive measures, such as a travel ban, which has prevented him from coming to Geneva to follow this dialogue in person. He also faces reporting requirements and the freezing of his bank accounts. Could the state party please explain to the Committee why it considers these measures to be necessary and proportionate? How does the state party protect in law and in practice human rights defenders and ensure that they can carry out their work safely and without undue interference, obstruction, or judicial harassment? And which measures has the state party taken to ensure that perpetrators of attacks do not enjoy impunity?" Greece's reply: "Just a comment, please, about Mr. Dimitras' case that it is in the judicial procedure, so we cannot comment something." The reply was factually false since, as mentioned above, the government did comment in its reply to the European Parliament with the aforementioned false claim.

During the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination review of Greece [on 4 December 2024](#), a Committee member asked: “And I want you to just comment for me on at least one specific case of a human rights defender that I certainly met many others like me who were special procedures mandate holders when we visited Greece. And that is somebody who is very highly held in high regard in human rights, in the global human rights community, Panayote Dimitris, who is with the GHMr. And I understand that he is under suspicion of his work as a lawyer to with people who have migrated who are in the cycle of migration, and he has worked with them as an attorney, as a human rights defender, and he is being sort of harassed. He has had his assets frozen. And he is sort of being held for a long time in limbo on charges of trafficking or whatever. And I just want to hear because even last month, this was brought up before the Human Rights Committee. Excuse me if I’m going over the territory that’s been trended already in our discussions, but this is a very specific case. But there are others. And it was cited by the Human Rights Committee a month or so ago. And so I’m wondering if you could comment on these specific cases of human rights defenders who are now being charged with the very thing that they have been working against in their work as human rights defenders.” Greece’s reply: “In Greece, the justice system is completely independent. That is the reply to the question, namely that in Greece, human rights defenders are neither better protected nor less protected than any other Greek citizen or any other citizen. So the question is in front of the Greek courts, and we have, as an executive branch, we have absolutely no implication in whoever goes before the court. I think the Ministry of Justice should come in now... I would like to echo what you have just said that if a case is pending, we cannot comment until we have a final court decision. So I echo what you have said.”

### **Háttér Society, Hungary**

In 2024, the Háttér Society continued the joint implementation of the SafeNet project. We have reported more than 450 hateful content to social media platforms during the project and made over 550 reports in 2024, including other activities.

We redesigned our reporting platform called [Report Homofobia](#), where people can give accounts – among others – of online hate speech to us, even anonymously. The reports are being dealt with by the legal aid service of the Háttér Society.

We contributed to other civil society organisations’ projects in various forms: by attending roundtable discussions and events in the [CHAD](#) and [ReportHate](#) projects or by providing expert opinions on draft documents.

Háttér Society provided opinions to the National Media and Infocommunications Authority on their draft decree on the regulations of the trusted flaggers. Our recommendations were not included in the final version of the decree.

One year release on probation was applied against the president of the far-right organisation Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement [Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (HVIM)] after he called for a rainbow flag burning in materials posted online. The criminal procedure was initiated by the report of the Háttér Society in 2019.

Two procedures of the National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information initiated by the Háttér Society regarding online listings of certain professionals are still in progress. In one case, the authority is investigating an online public listing of LGBTQI-supporting teachers. In the other case, an online list of LGBTQI-friendly psychologists is the subject of the authority's procedure. In both cases, the purpose of the lists is to incite hatred and to depict people on the list in an unfavourable light.

Háttér Society conducted an online survey with the participation of more than 2000 Hungarian LGBTQI people in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology (<https://szociologia.tk.hu/>). The survey covered various issues, including experiences with online hate speech. Of those using online platforms, 68% reported having met hateful content against LGBTQI people in social media frequently or very frequently, 51% in online newspapers, and 82% in user comments to online newspapers. 33% reported hateful content to service providers in at least one case. 64% recalled that none of the reported content was removed, 33% that some were removed, some were not, and all hateful content was removed for only 3% of respondents. (link in Hungarian: <https://hatter.hu/tevekenysegunk/kutatasok/lmbtqi-kutatas-2023>).

## **Jugendschutz.net, Germany**

[jugendschutz.net](https://jugendschutz.net) checks internet content for violations of German youth protection laws and operates a hotline to which internet users can report illegal and harmful content. We regularly search for potential risks on the internet. The focus is on topics and services specifically attractive to children and young people. The tasks of [jugendschutz.net](https://jugendschutz.net) are defined in the Interstate Treaty on the Protection of Minors on the Media as well as the Youth Protection Act.

In addition to a series of brief analyses of individual hate content (so-called content snippets) for informative and educational purposes, [jugendschutz.net](https://jugendschutz.net) published three reports in 2024 on the topics of potential extremist risks on Discord, the Israel-Gaza conflict online, and Islamist influencing in social media.

Another key topic in 2024 was the use of generative artificial intelligence in the context of hate and extremism, on which we held various workshops and presentations. In general, the possibilities of AI are increasingly being used for hate and incitement in the form of AI chatbots and AI-generated videos, music, images and virtual influencers.

Together with 20 other partners, [jugenschutz.net](https://jugenschutz.net) was part of the EU-funded project “Monitoring and Reporting for Safer Online Environments” (SafeNet). We presented our figures at the final conference in Brussels in November 2024. In total, [jugenschutz.net](https://jugenschutz.net) reported over 900 violations to social media providers, of which 99% were removed or blocked.

## **LOVE-Storm, Germany**

Since 2023, LOVE-Storm has focused on developing innovative educational training courses and materials to counter online hate in chat groups. The main findings include:

- How to provide safe(r) spaces in chat groups to allow free and inclusive communication for all group members.
- How to facilitate conflict resolution processes in digital groups.
- How to counter the widespread denial of responsibility by chat owners (and other owners of digital spaces)

A series of German language workshops for schools, teachers and other educators are available at <https://love-storm.de/workshops/>

LOVE-Storm is continuing to host the [LOVE-Storm Online Training Room](#), to run respectful and realistic digital role-plays against online hate.

Check <https://love-storm.eu/online-training-room> if you want to join the international community of trainers against online hate.

In 2024, the LOVE-Storm owner - the [Federation for Civilian-Based Defence \(BSV\)](#) - joined a successful Consortium to become the Civil Society Hub for Democratic Conflict Transformation (2025-2032) Within the Hub, LOVE-Storm will be responsible for covering Conflict Management in the Digital Space.

## **Multi Kulti Collective, Bulgaria**

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective concluded the national-wide communication campaign Migrants Got Talent, financed by the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria. The project aimed at promoting inclusion and countering hate speech by developing alternative narratives on migration. In particular, it highlighted the positive contribution migrants and refugees made in society in the fields of sport, art, culture, business, social causes, science, etc.

In the period 2022-2024, 136 live events were organized in 7 Bulgarian cities with 5,511 participants in total. They were all hosted by migrants and refugees and included art workshops, concerts, cooking classes, history lectures, exhibitions, cocktail workshops, inspiring talks, seminars for personal development, theatre and dance workshops, yoga sessions, book readings, various ceremonies, etc.

In the same period, 416 interviews and reportages that featured migrants and refugees were organized in leading national and local media, such as National and private TV, National and private radios, magazines, newspapers, and online media.

In addition, 2 special workshops were organized at Sofia University – Audio Storytelling on Migration for students of Ethnical Studies and Covering Migration for students of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Last but not least, the project finished with a big show on stage, Migrants Got Talent, which featured 20 musicians, poets, stand-up comedians, and actors and attracted more than 200 participants.

Learn more about the project here:

<https://multikulti.bg/en/projects/migrants-got-talent-eng>

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective also realized the project No Racism in the Election Campaign for the European Parliament, financed by the European Network Against Racism ENAR. It aimed to raise awareness and discuss the harmful effects of racism and hate speech in various social aspects, incl. as a pre-election political tool in the Bulgarian political campaigns and especially in light of the upcoming European elections. The project sought to strengthen European values and defend human rights.

The project featured an outdoor photo exhibition in Sofia that gave voice to 23 Bulgarians and foreigners who opposed racism and hate speech and sent a message in support of human rights, democracy and diversity. These were both victims of racism and prominent figures from public life, such as Instagram influencers, pop stars, prominent media figures, respected intellectuals, etc. The photographer was Krasimir Dimitrov. The exhibition was carried out under the patronage of the European Parliament.

The project also included a national media campaign against racism and hate speech. It featured more than 10 interviews and reportages in some of Bulgaria's best media, such as the National TV, and National Radio, among others. It also featured activities on social media (more than 60 posts on Facebook and Instagram).

Learn more about the project here:

<https://multikulti.bg/en/projects/no-racism-EU-elections-exhibition>

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective also joined the EU project From Words to Stories, financed by CERV. It is a national initiative proposed by a coalition of LGBTIQ, Roma and migrant organisations, along with the Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria, with the main objective to counteract hate speech with a focus on xenophobia, Antisemitism, homophobia and transphobia along with other forms of intolerance. In the period 2024-2026, it will build capacity across community and professionals and offer training, communication and advocacy efforts to expose the negative effects of hate speech on individuals, social groups and society as a whole and on creating and promoting counter-narratives, including stories of resilience and diversity. The project builds on the



experience of project partners (particularly within the preceding REC-supported initiative 'Not Just Words') in taking a multidimensional and cross-community approach to intolerance in general and hate speech in specific. In addition, the project puts forward the importance of stories of facing, overcoming and countering hate speech and intolerance, which is also reflected in its title. To do that, the project builds capacity in story-holders (minority youth and allies) and story-tellers (journalists, media professionals and content creators); it builds bridges between them and equips them with specific knowledge and attitudes (for journalists) and practical skills and awareness (for youth) to better tell stories. The project then invests heavily in making these stories heard by the general public, using various channels and tools (media publications, youth-led and co-created media content, movies, socially engaged art, outdoor and online campaigns, etc.), while at the same time increasing reporting levels and engaging relevant authorities.

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective co-hosted two capacity-building workshops for young story-tellers in Sofia.

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective was also an active member of the EU network Facing Facts. As part of the network, our team contributed to the online training programme on the e-learning platform [www.facingfactsonline.eu](http://www.facingfactsonline.eu). It also participated in the network's annual meeting in Brussels in December 2024.

In 2024, Multi Kulti Collective was also an active member of the INACH network. It also participated in the network's annual meeting in Budapest in September 2024. The team is delighted to announce that it will host INACH's annual meeting in 2025 in Sofia (25-26 September 2025).

## **ZARA, Austria**

The *ZARA Racism Report 2023* was published in March 2024. It provides a comprehensive analysis of racism and discrimination in Austria, highlighting 1,366 reported cases of racist incidents. Published by ZARA – Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work, the report underscores the persistence of racism in public spaces, online, and in institutional settings, while emphasizing the importance of a National Action Plan Against Racism, including measures for education, awareness, and advocacy. [https://assets.zara.or.at/media/rassismusreport/ZARA\\_RacismReport\\_2023\\_EN\\_compressed.pdf](https://assets.zara.or.at/media/rassismusreport/ZARA_RacismReport_2023_EN_compressed.pdf)

- ZARA published their Report #AgainstOnlineHate on 28.11.2024. The focus is on Intersectionality and how different people are affected by online hate. Projects on Counterspeech and Monitoring are presented, and different authors write from their perspectives on what hate speech means to them. [https://zara.or.at/de/wissen/publikationen/GegenHassimNetz\\_Berichte](https://zara.or.at/de/wissen/publikationen/GegenHassimNetz_Berichte)