

**Input for the study of the Human Rights Council  
Advisory Committee on the impact of disinformation  
on the enjoyment and realization of human rights  
(HRC resolution 55/10)**

POLAND



FUNDACJA JAW DIKH!



stowarzyszenie  
żydowskie  
czulent



*fundacja*  
**RÓWNOŚĆ.ORG.PL**

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## I. On the impact of disinformation

1. Disinformation, understood as an intentional manipulation of information, contributes to increasing hatred against minorities and has a negative impact on the fundamental right to human dignity. It undermines acceptance, solidarity and social cohesion.<sup>1</sup> Contemporary antisemitism, anti-LGBTI, anti-Roma and anti-Ukrainian sentiments in Poland serve as a tool for social polarisation and voter mobilisation. Such practices affect attitudes toward various social groups, in particular ethnic, national, religious and sexual minorities and can contribute to an increased approval for violence against them. The growing popularity of hateful content poses a threat to public order and democracy. It also erodes the sense of security, causing a “chilling effect” in minority groups that are particularly vulnerable to discrimination.<sup>2</sup>
2. Disinformation targeting vulnerable groups is based on ignorance, resentment and a lack of empathy. It serves as a tool to discredit and vilify minorities. The research conducted by the Jewish Association Czulent shows that hate speech aimed at specific minority groups on a mass scale aims to provoke fear and feelings of insecurity among other group members. It was also noted that hateful content is used in the context of specific political topics, events or social developments, potentially influencing election outcomes, public opinion, and the security of a particular minority group. In this context, we noticed a radical intensification of antisemitic content online since 7 October 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel and the conflict escalated further.<sup>3</sup> In recent years, we have also observed rising disinformation on the history of the Holocaust, leading to its manipulation, trivialization, distortion and denial.<sup>4</sup>
3. The analysis of the hateful content during the 2024 European Parliament elections proved that a vast portion of the monitored content was meant to disinform and polarise the society with a significant proportion of the disinformation being of an illegal or criminal nature. Czulent observed that the online use of antisemitic conspiracy myths serves to increase the visibility of political content by formulating messages in a way that makes them attractive to

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament, [The impact of disinformation campaigns about migrants and minority groups in the EU](#), Brussels 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Grabarczyk-Anders Joanna, Winiewski Mikołaj Henryk, [Monitoring of hateful content during the 2024 European Parliament Election](#), Kraków 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> [Denial, distortion and disinformation: the truth about the Holocaust 80 years after the liberation KL Auschwitz](#), 29 January 2025.

algorithms recommending content to users. The following exemplary narratives, with frequently occurring cross-cutting content such as antisemitism, combined with anti-migrant prejudices and anti-multiculturalism, were singled out in the report:

- Emphasising minorities' foreignness (e.g., "It doesn't come as a surprise when three-quarters of the government are foreign avengers, like: Jews, Germans and Ukrainians, Poles have no say, because most of the population in Poland are foreigners, who settled in Poland after the Second World War and reproduced, but they still carry the genes of their countries. Poor us Poles").
- Reinforcing the stereotype of a disloyal person who intends to damage the interests of Poland and Poles (e.g., "Multiculturalism is not an experiment but a deliberate action by Soros to destroy the European continent and the white man").
- Promoting conspiracy myths, such as those that Jews have an outsized power (e.g., "Jews rule the world and the most influential country, connect the dots 🇺🇸 🇮🇸 🇮🇸").<sup>5</sup>

4. The Kosciuszko Institute, Media Detector and Civic Resilience emphasize that fake narratives orchestrated by foreign actors, in particular Russia, aim at "sowing discord in the society by exaggerating problematic issues and creating fake content".<sup>6</sup> There are currently some 1.8 million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, living in Poland. It is argued that the so-called Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) narratives have attempted to create societal discord by presenting the Ukrainian minority as "unwelcome, ungrateful, antisocial, unworthy of help, and (in some cases) outrightly dangerous".<sup>7</sup> Minority populations are integrated into the FIMI narratives by portraying long-standing ethnic populations or Ukrainian refugees as a physical, cultural, economic and moral threat to the majority population. According to this narrative minorities threaten the stability of the state.<sup>8</sup> Fake narratives directed at the Ukrainian minority in Poland are combined with antisemitic conspiracy myths such as "Ukropolin" - a term used to indicate Poland is ruled by Ukrainians and Jews who want to undermine the country's stability and sovereignty. The trend targeting one minority group often triggers similar hostility toward other minority groups. This correlation, especially in relation to antisemitic, anti-Ukrainian and

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> The Kosciuszko Institute, Detector Media, Civic Resilience Initiative,, [KREMLIN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE IN THE LUBLIN TRIANGLE \(POLAND, UKRAINE, LITHUANIA\), AND MOLDOVA Actors, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures](#), 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

anti-refugee content has been particularly visible at the time of parliamentary elections in Poland, including to the European Parliament.<sup>9</sup>

5. Similar trends can be observed when it comes to homophobic and transphobic narratives. In the research conducted by Rownosc.org.pl Foundation 57,7% of respondents reported experiencing verbal abuse.<sup>10</sup> The foundation has documented numerous instances where misinformation has led to increased social stigma, affecting mental health and safety within the LGBTI community. The LGBTI community strongly indicated that the disinformation is present in a wide range of sources with one of the respondents stating: “Perhaps what hurts the most is this helplessness. The feeling that I am someone worse. I go to school, hear how bad I am. I go to work, hear how hopeless I am. I walk down the street, and hear that I am a pedophile. I watch TV, hear that I am destroying Polish families. I go to church, hear that I am an aberration. I meet with relatives, hear how much I have harmed them. And it’s all because of one small fact over which I had no control and which, in reality, harms no one: being trans.”
6. Disinformation regarding the LGBTI community can be traced back to 2015, when local media in southern Poland were fear mongering about “gender ideology” and covering the actions of the politicians “fighting” the so-called gender ideology.<sup>11</sup> The spread of false claims about LGBTI individuals has led to policies such as the establishment of so-called “LGBT-free zones,” which, although legally non-binding, have contributed to increased hostility and violence, as noted by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.<sup>12</sup> Apart from experiencing verbal (57,7%) and physical abuse (11,1%) according to the Rownosc.org.pl Foundation report<sup>13</sup> persons in the region have experienced broader violations of human rights. One of the stories shared by LGBTI people from those municipalities indicates denial of service in the pharmacy due to their sexual orientation after the adoption of the “LGBT-free zone” impacting their right to health.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Grabarczyk-Anders Joanna, Winiewski Mikołaj Henryk, [Monitoring of hateful content during the 2024 European Parliament Election](#), Kraków 2024; Grabarczyk-Anders Joanna, Winiewski Mikołaj Henryk, [Wybory parlamentarne 2023. Monitoring nienawistnych treści](#), Kraków 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Fundacja Równość.org.pl, [Poland A, Poland B? No, Poland LGBT!](#), Kraków 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Fundacja Równość.org.pl, [Dyskryminujący/Dyskryminowani. LGBT w Małopolsce](#), Kraków 2015.

<sup>12</sup> Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, [Memorandum on the stigmatisation of LGBTI people in Poland](#), Strasbourg 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Fundacja Równość.org.pl, [Poland A, Poland B? No, Poland LGBT!](#), Kraków 2023.

<sup>14</sup> TVN24, [Prawa osób LGBT. "Czuję się jak obywatel drugiej kategorii"](#), Warszawa 2020.

7. Digitalization plays a key role in the spread of disinformation because the development of the internet and social media has enabled the rapid and wide dissemination of information – both true and false. Technologies such as generative artificial intelligence (AI) pose a significant challenge, as they allow for the creation of realistic yet entirely false content, such as deep fakes.
8. However, in the context of combating disinformation, it is equally important to enhance algorithms with the ability to identify specific hate speech and content that masks the true meaning of words and phrases. Such content, often used by extremist and hate groups, can be difficult to detect because it is concealed with ambiguous expressions, slang, or codes. Therefore, AI algorithms should be developed based on the expertise of minority organizations and groups particularly vulnerable to disinformation, in order to effectively identify and block such content. It is crucial to leverage expertise, linguistic corpora, and to ensure that the minority perspective is considered both in the data input process and at the testing level. This can help reduce the risk of spreading hate speech and manipulation online, as well as support the creation of a safer and more equitable digital environment.
9. At the same time, technologies such as AI-based content analysis algorithms can also serve as a tool in the fight against disinformation, enabling faster detection of false information and its automatic removal. However, their use requires appropriate regulations to prevent abuse.

## **II. Civil society: scope of work and good practices**

10. The prosecution of hate crimes has not been a priority for the Polish justice system in recent years. Only 5% of hate crimes are reported to the police, as noted in a 2018 Ombudsman study.<sup>15</sup> The current work on the development of the National Prosecutor's Office Guidelines on investigating hate crimes provides an opportunity for addressing threats posed by hate speech and disinformation.
11. Addressing disinformation necessitates development and implementation of multiple mechanisms and tools by various stakeholders, including civil society organizations. Legal efforts by the Jewish Association Czulent in recent years have focused on a) strategic litigation emphasizing strengthening victim-focused

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<sup>15</sup> IPSOS, RPO, [Badanie charakteru i skali niezgłaszanych przestępstw z nienawiści wobec członków wybranych społeczności w Polsce. Raport z badania](#), Warszawa 2018.

prosecution of hate crimes and b) developing guidelines on collecting digital evidence for hate crime proceedings.

12. Czulent's knowledge and experience is based on monitoring and reporting hateful and illegal antisemitic content with the use of the AI containing tool - SentiOne. For this purpose the Association developed the online platform [zglosantysemityzm.pl](https://zglosantysemityzm.pl) that allows for aggregation of online incidents, analysis and reporting of antisemitic hate crimes, hate speech and disinformation.
13. In the Polish context, disinformation targets various minorities and manifests itself in the cross-cutting antisemitic, anti-Ukrainian, anti-Roma and anti-LGBTI, anti-refugee and anti-migrant content, with the latest often equated with anti-Muslim attitudes. To understand and raise awareness of the newly emerging conspiracy myths and quickly developing cross-content hateful narratives, we have begun to create minority-focused informal advocacy hubs and alliances.
14. The Jewish Association Czulent has also advocated for the implementation of the EU Digital Services Act into Polish law that aims to build a safer and more predictable online environment for all users. In the public consultation process we emphasized a cross-sectional approach to cooperation engaging public, private and civil society actors through creating a common platform for knowledge-sharing. The Association also raised the importance of supporting future trusted flaggers (entities with a reporting status granted by national authorities) with additional funding to provide CSOs with extra source for their analytical work.<sup>16</sup> These recommendations were transposed to the legislative draft proposal.<sup>17</sup>
15. On the local level, the Jewish Association Czulent has worked closely with the Kraków City in preparing recommendations for a more inclusive and secure town. The document, which waits for the final approval by the city municipality, includes a range of issues, including cooperation with the civil society organizations in monitoring, reporting and responding to hate crimes, which are rooted predominantly in disinformation.

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<sup>16</sup> The Jewish Association Czulent, [Stanowisko Żydowskiego Stowarzyszenia Czulent w sprawie wdrożenia w Polsce unijnego aktu o usługach cyfrowych \(Digital Services Act, DSA\)](#), 2024.

<sup>17</sup> RCL, [Projekt ustawy o zmianie ustawy o świadczeniu usług drogą elektroniczną oraz niektórych innych ustaw](#), 2024.

16. Disinformation directly impacts the work of Fundacja Równość.org.pl by creating an environment of hostility that undermines advocacy efforts. False narratives about LGBTI individuals reduce public support for equality measures, embolden discriminatory policies, and expose activists to harassment and violence. Some of the members of the foundation have experienced various forms of online violence based on disinformation such as flooding, doxing or impersonation, as well as incitement to violence and death threats. When reported to police, most complaints were not investigated. According to the Fundamental Rights Agency report, 96% of LGBTI respondents in Poland do not believe that the government is combating prejudice against them effectively.<sup>18</sup>
17. At the same time Rownosc.org.pl Foundation sees good practices being implemented on a local government level. With the support of the Kraków City the Foundation could launch for a limited time a hate monitoring tool supporting people experiencing hate with reporting their experiences. Additionally various cities in Poland launched awareness campaigns – which also addressed the needs of the community – as indicated by 73,7% respondents.<sup>19</sup> However, the majority of good practices with regard to educational tools and courses, as well as support for victims of hate crimes, comes from non-profit organisations and is critically underfunded. A good practice from Norway and Iceland that could be implemented is where LGBTI Action Plans were developed in collaboration with community organisations and with a guaranteed multi-year budget for implementation.<sup>20</sup>
18. The Jaw Dikh Foundation focuses on combating antigypsyist disinformation that fuels discrimination and social exclusion of the Roma people. Disinformation spreads harmful stereotypes, undermines Roma rights advocacy, and fuels hostility toward Roma-led initiatives. For example, false claims about Roma refugees in Poland led to discrimination in aid distribution.<sup>21</sup> The most problematic processes include: lack of accountability for social media platforms

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<sup>18</sup> Fundamental Rights Agency, [LGBTIO at a crossroads: progress and challenges](#), Vienna 2024.

<sup>19</sup> Fundacja Równość.org.pl, [Poland A, Poland B? No, Poland LGBT!](#), Kraków 2023.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Mirga-Wójtowicz E., Padshakh K., Rusek J., Emery H., Voit A., Szewczyk M., Kwiatkowska K., [Experiences of Roma Refugees from Ukraine in Accessing Services and Assistance in Poland](#), IOM Poland, 2024.

Mirga-Wójtowicz, E. and K. Fiałkowska, [‘Be careful out there, in that Gypsy district’ – antigypsyism in a war situation.](#), 2022.

Mirga-Wójtowicz, E., K. Fiałkowska and M. Szewczyk, [National and Local Mobilisation of Roma and Non-Roma Organisations and Activists in Poland Supporting Ukrainian Roma Forced Migrants in the Face of the War in Ukraine](#), Fundacja Jaw Dikh and Ergo Network, 2023.



spreading antigypsyist content<sup>22</sup>; governmental narratives that reinforce stereotypes rather than challenge them.

19. The Foundation and people connected with the foundation and with the Roma civil society in Poland conduct research, advocacy, and awareness campaigns to counter false narratives about Roma communities and build a new Critical Romani Studies, a new narrative, Roma perspective.<sup>23</sup>
20. From the foundation's perspective, possible initiatives in tackling disinformation targeting Roma communities should include media literacy programs, strategic legal action against hate speech, and collaboration with other fact-checking organizations.<sup>24</sup>
21. To effectively combat antigypsyist narratives, a multifaceted approach is necessary, combining fact-checking initiatives, Roma inclusion in media and decision-making, and legislative measures against hate speech. Strengthening fact-checking mechanisms requires dedicated teams that monitor and counter disinformation, collaboration with social media platforms to flag harmful content, and training programs for journalists on recognizing antigypsyist narratives. Simultaneously, ensuring Roma representation in media and policymaking is essential; this can be achieved through increased hiring of Roma professionals in journalism, funding Roma-led media projects, and establishing advisory roles within public institutions. Legislative action must also be reinforced by implementing stricter regulations against hate speech, holding online platforms accountable for removing discriminatory content, and providing legal support to Roma individuals facing harassment. A holistic strategy that integrates these measures will help dismantle harmful stereotypes, amplify Roma voices, and create a more inclusive and just society.

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<sup>22</sup> Jakupov, M., [Digital Inclusion of Roma: Current Patterns, Trends, and Barriers](#). Roma Civil Monitor, Luxembourg 2024.

<sup>23</sup> [ROCIT Project](#), 2024-2027.

Centre for Migration Research, [Transnational lives of Polish Roma – Migration, family and ethnic boundary making in changing European Union](#), University of Warsaw, 2019-2022.

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Roma Civil Monitor, [Roma Civil Monitor 2021-2025](#).

ERGO Network, [PECAO](#).

<sup>24</sup> Agnieszka Caban, Agnieszka Pięta (2024) Roma Shield. O dezinformacji ze względu na płęć wobec romskiej społeczności w Polsce”, Fundacja Dom na Pograniczu; Roma Civil Monitor (2024) Digital Inclusion of Roma: Current Patterns, Trends, and Barriers. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. By Mustafa Jakupov.

### III. About authors

[Jewish Association Czulent](#) is an advocacy organization dedicated to building alliances for an inclusive society grounded in democratic values and human rights. Through its diverse initiatives, Czulent remains steadfast in its mission to foster openness and actively combat antisemitism. We collaborate with institutions, public administration, and dialogue organisations to shape public attitudes and contribute to changes in Polish legislation regarding tolerance and the fight against racism. Our partners include the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the American Jewish Committee Central Europe, and the National Democratic Institute. Czulent undertakes comprehensive initiatives to counter antisemitism, which include analyses and reports on the phenomenon of antisemitism within the Visegrad Group countries, and is also involved in strategic litigation activities. We operate the [zglosantysemityzm.pl](#) platform, which facilitates the reporting of antisemitic incidents and crimes, and provides legal support to victims. Through international coalitions such as the European Network on Monitoring Antisemitism (ENMA), the Coalition to Counter Online Antisemitism (CCOA), the European Network Countering Antisemitism Through Education (ENCATE), and the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), we collect and promote best practices, and recommend solutions at the European level.

[Równość.org.pl Foundation](#) was established in 2013 with the primary goal of combating discrimination, particularly against LGBTI individuals outside major cities, and ensuring the protection of fundamental rights for minority groups. Its work is based on data and factual research, focusing on empowering and strengthening local communities while engaging in advocacy with public institutions. The Foundation conducted research on the LGBTI community, public institutions, and media in the Małopolska region, examining anti-discrimination measures. As a result of its effective advocacy efforts, the Kraków Equal Treatment Council was established in 2019. In recent years, the Foundation has conducted studies on the situation of the LGBTI community in southeastern Poland and on minority groups' access to freedom of assembly nationwide. Additionally, the foundation works on empowering local leaders of change from minority groups and in 2023, it launched the activist platform [Milk.org.pl](#).

[Jaw Dikh Foundation](#) (Romani for 'Come and See') was founded in 2015 by people who were previously involved in the creation of the first Roma student organisation in Poland, the Romski Stowarzyszenie Oświatowego Harangos (Roma Educational Harangos Association), which was founded in 2004 in Krakow. This pioneering initiative laid the foundation for the development of activities for the education of young Roma and

intercultural integration, which also became the basis for the activities of the Jaw Dikh Foundation. The main objective of the foundation is to promote and preserve Romani culture and identity. Through the use of art and non-formal education, the Jaw Dikh Foundation supports the building of greater understanding and dialogue between Romani and non-Romani communities. The foundation supports a wide range of activities, including artistic, creative, scientific, educational and cultural projects. Its efforts focus on the promotion of art and culture aimed at building social cohesion and integration based on cultural, educational and artistic values. In addition to cultural initiatives, the Jaw Dikh Foundation is actively involved in initiating, reviewing, monitoring and evaluating policies, programmes and projects that benefit national and ethnic minorities. The organisation cooperates with a wide range of stakeholders, including Roma and non-Roma communities, schools, NGOs, art galleries and publishers.