

People, Not Narratives: EDMO Training Series on Identity-Based Disinformation

Module 1: Minorities and Migrants

13 May 2026 | 14:00 - 16:00



People, Not Narratives: EDMO Training Series on Identity-Based Disinformation

Module 2: Women and Girls

27 May 2026 | 14:00 - 16:00

Module 3: LGBTQ+

10 June 2026 | 14:00 - 16:00



AGENDA

14:00-14:15 - Welcome and introduction, *Lisa Ginsborg*

14:15-14:30 - *Katarína Klingová*

14:30-14:35 - Q&A

14:35-14:50 - *Yitsz Neurink*

14:50-14:55 - Q&A

14:55-15:10 - *José Moreno*

15:10-15:15 - Q&A

15:15-15:45 - *Eóin Young*

15:45-15:55 - Q&A

15:55-16:00 – Conclusions

TRAINERS

Lisa Ginsborg | EDMO, European University Institute

Katarína Klingová | GLOBSEC

José Moreno | IBERIFIER, Iscte-IUL

Yitsz Neurink | BENEDMO, Nieuwscheckers

Eóin Young | International Centre for Policy Advocacy (ICPA)



IDENTITY-BASED DISINFORMATION

- Defined by the European External Action Service (EEAS 2024) “threatens and causes direct or indirect harm to individuals and groups based on their gender, orientation, race or ethnicity, affects values and disrupts the political process”
- Involves spreading misleading or false claims related to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, and other identity markers to silence, undermine, or repress marginalized communities.
- Exploits existing preexisting prejudices, stereotypes, and biases, disinformation campaigns that weaponize identity can exacerbate societal divisions, leading to increased hostility and violence against individuals and marginalized groups.
- In extreme cases can promote mobilization towards violence

PLATFORM POLICIES?

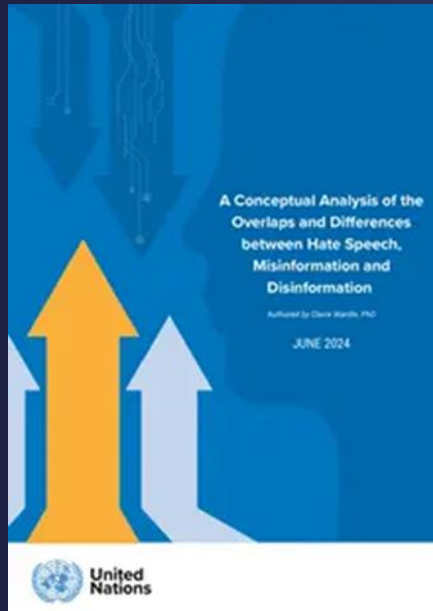
	POLICY REFERRING TO FIMI	POLICY REFERRING TO IDENTITY-BASED ATTACKS
META	Facebook refers to “ <u>influence operations</u> ”, defined as “coordinated efforts to manipulate or corrupt public debate for a strategic goal”. Although not explicitly mentioned, it should extend to Instagram, too.	Meta’s <u>hate speech</u> policy and Ad Standards prohibit discrimination based on “personal attributes such as race, ethnicity, colour, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, disability, medical or genetic condition.”
YOUTUBE	The platform refers to “ <u>coordinated influence operations</u> ”, for which it does not provide a definition but attributes them to state actors.	YouTube’s <u>hate speech</u> policy prohibits discrimination based on “age, caste, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, nationality, race, immigration status, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, victims of a major violent event and their kin, veteran status”.
TIKTOK	The platform refers to “ <u>covert influence operations</u> ” as “coordinated, inauthentic behaviour where networks of accounts strategically work together to mislead people or our systems and influence public discussion”.	TikTok’s <u>hate speech</u> and <u>anti-discrimination ad policy</u> prohibits discrimination based on “race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, tribe, caste, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity, serious disease, disability, and immigration status.”
X	Twitter used to speak of “ <u>state-linked information operations</u> ”, but since the platform’s rebranding as X, there is no reference to the topic.	X’s <u>hateful conduct</u> policy prohibits direct attacks “on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or serious disease”.

Table 2: How the main VLOPs’ policies define FIMI and IBD

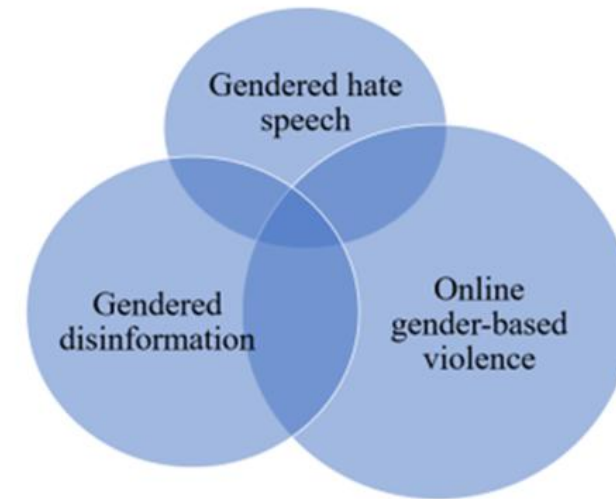


HOW DOES IDENTITY-BASED DISINFORMATION INTERSECT WITH HATE SPEECH?

- Disinformation often used to incite hatred
- Hate speech can use other means to spread hatred
- Not all identity-based disinformation may be termed hate speech if it does not contain an explicit incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence



Relationship among gendered disinformation, online gender-based violence and gendered hate speech



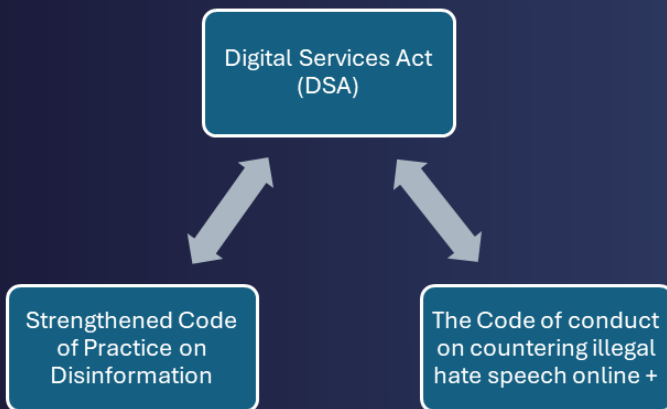
Source: Special Rapporteur.

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISINFORMATION AND HATE SPEECH?

- Surprisingly few studies address how interrelated
- Harm? IBD often used to foment hatred and violence
- Legal implications?
- Need for legal clarity and policy implications of cases of overlap – FoE vs. dangers of manipulating disinformation label
- Empirical studies?
- Overlap between groups, use of ‘creative content’.



INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS

- Certain types of hate speech (reaching the threshold of incitement) are prohibited by international law.
- Article 20 (2) of the ICCPR provides that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is to be prohibited by law.
- There is no such corresponding obligation for disinformation as it is not defined explicitly in international law.
- EU law requires member states to criminalise racist or xenophobic speech that publicly incites “violence or hatred against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin”.

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