WELCOME!
Online course on hate speech for journalists
MODULE 1: What is hate speech?

In this module...
1. What do we mean by hate speech
2. Main elements and neighboring areas
3. Freedom of expression: balancing rights and potential harms
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
Stricter, legal definitions

Broader definitions, capturing harm
Legal definition

“public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined on the basis of race, colour, descent, religion or belief, or national or ethnic origin” including

“publicly condoning, denying or grossly trivialising crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes”

(EU Framework decision 2008/913/JHA)
Tip: Report what is illegal

Remember this definition!
Social media companies must remove illegal hate speech.
Tip: Know your legislation

Research your local legislation on hate speech to give your reports more weight!
Terms and definitions II.

Stricter, legal definitions

Broader definitions, capturing harm
Broader definition

“We understand hate speech to be any communication which is potentially harmful in a given context to an individual or group based on one or more of their characteristics. It may be illegal or legal according to local laws.”

(Facing Facts definition)
MAIN ELEMENTS & NEIGHBOURING AREAS
Elements of hate speech

• Any communication
• Potentially harmful
• Characteristics
• Context
No need to drink it if you don’t want it
Neighbouring areas

- HATE SPEECH
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Misinformation
- Radicalization
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
Rights and limits

Article 17 of the European Convention of Human Rights “prohibits any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights in the Convention. This may include extreme cases of hate speech”.

“Anyone calling for violent action against certain groups will not be able to appeal to the right to freedom of expression. There is no right to be able to call for people to be attacked or killed” (Bookmarks, 2016).
Hate speech reduces free speech

• Leads to online exclusion
• Reduces diversity of voices
• Results in self-censorship