

# “Report Racism”

## WORKSHOP

Module 2: Hate Speech vs Freedom of Speech

Duration: 4 hours

# Important Information on the Module

Module Title	<b>Hate Speech vs Freedom of Speech</b>
Aim	<b>To define the boundaries of free speech.</b>
Name of Trainer	
Learning Outcomes <i>After the workshop, the participants will be able to:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delineate the difference between hate speech and freedom of speech.</li><li>• Reflect on the matter, comprehend the essence of free speech, and present their opinions based on reasoned arguments and knowledge.</li></ul>

## Defining Hate Speech

*Hate speech refers to an expression that is abusive, insulting, intimidating, harassing, and/or incites to violence, hatred, or discrimination. It is directed against people on the basis of their race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, age, physical condition, disability, sexual orientation, political conviction, and so forth (Erjavec and Kovac̃ic, 2012: 900).*

## MATE Findings

- The physical appearance of a person is a common target of racist behaviour (both offline and online).
  - The socio-economic status of a person (or racism against the poor).
  - The digital public sphere seems to facilitate hate speech targeting the political orientation.
- ⇒ Broad territory,
- ⇒ increased since after the financial crisis, the election of Trump, and Brexit. Why?

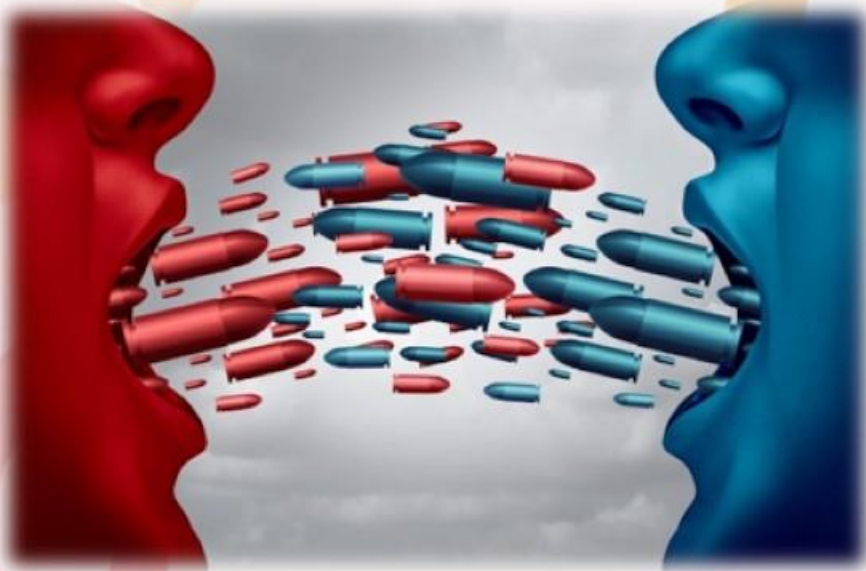
## Defining Freedom of Speech

*The right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, by any means. Also, freedom of speech and the right to freedom of expression applies to ideas of all kinds, including those that may be deeply offensive.*

(Amnesty International UK, 2018)

## Activity 1: “Online Hate Speech: What's the worst?”

- You evaluate some examples of rhetorical hatred against immigrants and homosexuals, ranking them from 1 to 10.



# ACTIVITY



# Ranking System

- You form 2 groups.
- Each group has to find 10 examples of online content/posts against immigrants and refugees.



## Discussion

- a. Where did you search for relevant material?
- b. Was it easy to evaluate the various examples?
- c. Were there any significant differences in your team?
- d. Did you use any criteria to decide which examples were the "worst"?





# Hate Speech is a Violation of Human Rights

- Hate speech is a violation of human rights and is regulated by law in most countries, on the basis of international human rights instruments.
- **Freedom of speech** is one of the many human rights and one of the foundations of a democratic society.



# Freedom of Speech

- What does freedom of speech mean to you?
- Does freedom of speech mean that we can say anything that we want?
- If we think that some "expressions" should not be allowed, how do we decide what should be banned? Who should decide?
- Have you ever prevented someone from saying something that they wanted - at home, at school, or in public?
- How did that make you feel?
- Why was it important for you to be able to express your opinion?



# Freedom of Speech

- If someone is not allowed to express himself/herself, it can be consequently said that a part of his/her personality is “removed”, altering his/her identity.
- Limiting freedom of speech restricts one's ability to participate in society.
- The right to freedom of speech may sometimes be restricted, if it is likely to harm people or endanger society.



Everybody has the right to freedom of opinion and speech, which includes the right to seek, to obtain, and to communicate information and ideas by any means of expression, without any adversely affecting his opinions.

(Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

## Activity 2: “Unlimited Freedom?”

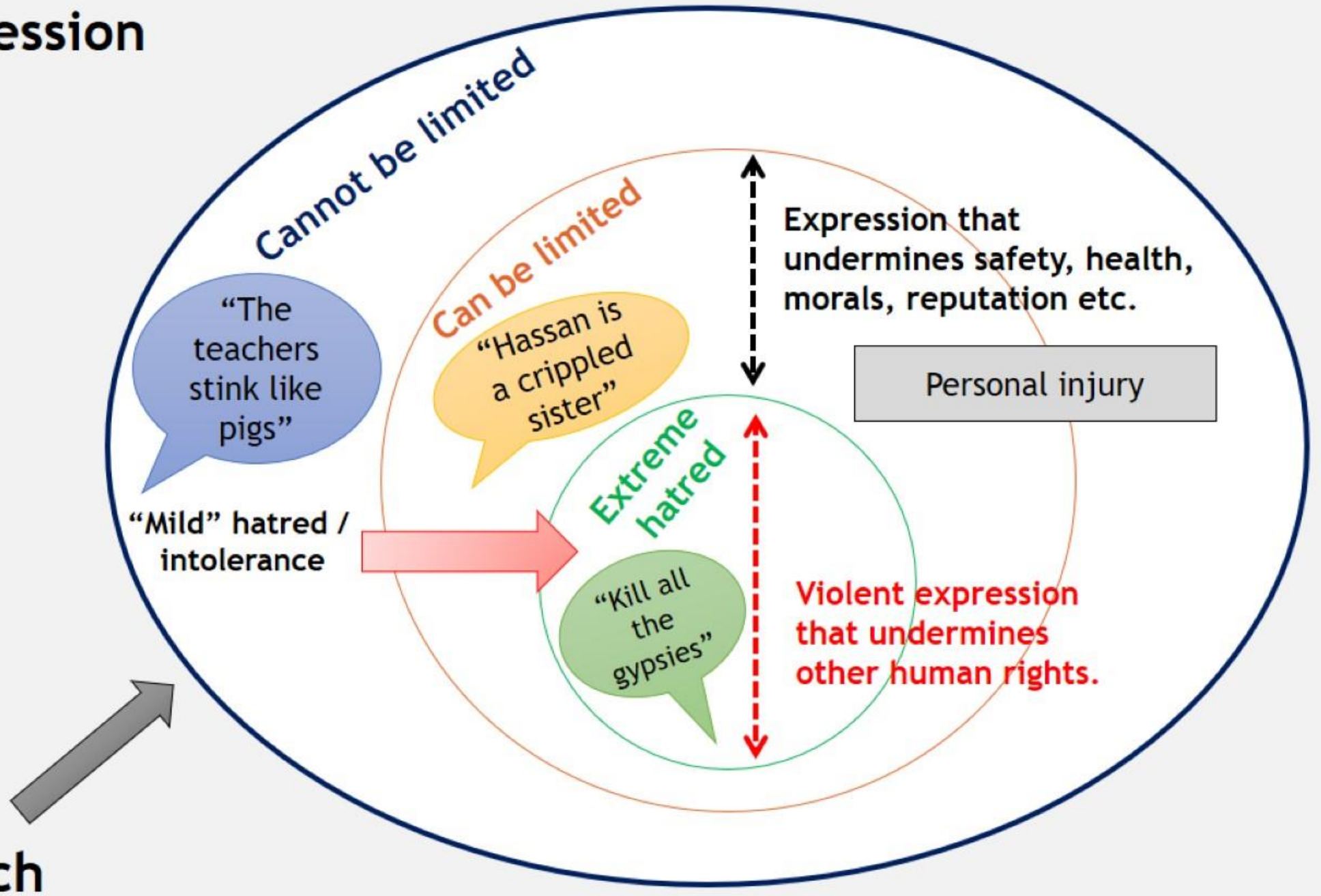
- You explore the concept of freedom of speech through a series of case studies. You have to decide what to do with comments or announcements that are controversial, abusive, or potentially dangerous.



# ACTIVITY

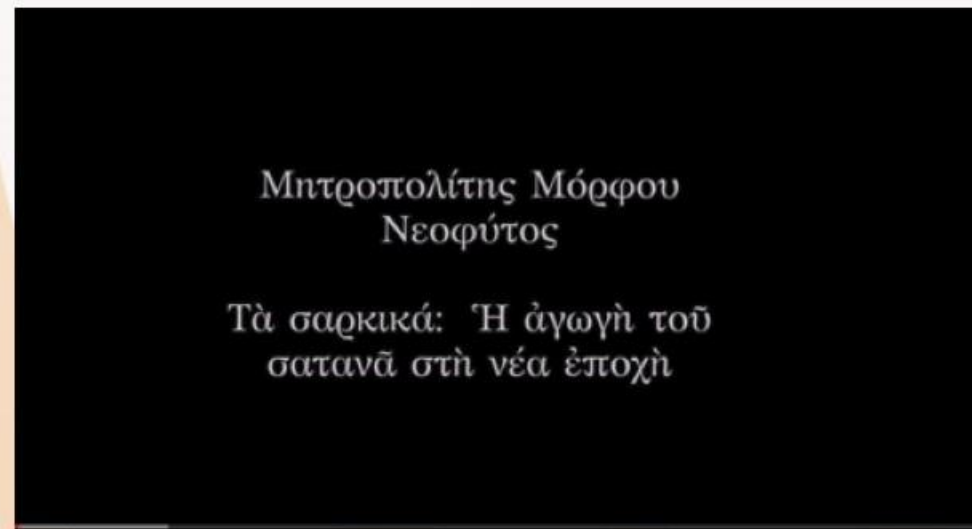


# Every expression



Hate Speech

## Watch the videos



- Speech alone is an act capable of harming others, even threatening society as a whole,
- Freedom of speech is one of the rights that can be restricted in certain circumstances.





## Hate Speech VS Freedom of Speech

- Hate speech reduces free speech.
- When there is hate speech, this contributes to the loss of pluralism. We lose the diversity of voices and hate speech affects communication.
- **The hate speech issue is inherently linked to freedom of speech and its legal limits.**
- The fight against hate speech is often equated to censorship.

## Activity 3: “Right or Wrong?”

- You should decide whether the actions described on the scenario sheet are permitted or not and explain why.



*ACTIVITY*



## Answer the Scenario Sheet

### Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (simplified)

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of speech. This right includes the freedom to express opinions and to receive and communicate information and ideas without interference.
2. Freedom of speech may be restricted, if such restriction is “necessary in a democratic society” and, more specifically, in order to protect the rights of others.

## Key Points

- Freedom of expression is not an “absolute” right, which is always valid and knows no bounds → It is a right that must be balanced with the rights of others or with the good of society as a whole.



Well done!

You have completed this Module!



Module