



Journalists as Targets of Hate:

An online event to explore the impact of hate campaigns on journalists' safety and independence

2 July 2021

13:30 - 16:30 CET

In recent years, the issues of journalist safety and impunity for criminal offences against journalists have become critically important in Central and Southeast Europe. From online harassment, of women journalists in particular, to smear campaigns and threats, physical attacks and even attempted murders, journalists face challenges that, coupled with economic and technological pressures, render the profession difficult and often dangerous. Many of those offences are motivated by hate and often unfold as part of wider hate narratives. While those narratives tend to revolve around victims' identity and/or affiliation, they nearly always serve identifiable political and/or business interests.

The prevalence of hate in public discourse, coupled with impunity for most hate crimes, undermines public trust in general, trust in the media in particular. In turn, for journalists to work in hateful environments means working in conditions of continuously compromised safety. Compromised safety negatively impacts all aspects of journalists' work, even if they are not targeted personally.

With this event, organised in collaboration with [IFEX](#), SEENPM member organisations aim to examine the impact of hate campaigns on the position of journalists and ways in which hate could be successfully countered. The event is structured as three thematic panels.

Event Program

13:30 - 14:20 ***Hate narratives and media trust***

Keynote: **Anida Sokol**, *Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Panelists:

- **Nazan Özcan**, *Bianet, Turkey*
- **Nataša Kovačev**, *N1 TV, Serbia*

Moderator: **Brankica Petković**, *Mirovni Inštitut, Slovenia*

14:20 - 14:30 Break

14:30 - 15:20 ***Navigating hateful environments - consequences for journalists' safety and independence***

Keynote: **Jovana Gligorijević**, *Vreme, Serbia*

Panelists:

- **Una Hajdari**, *freelance journalist, Kosovo*
- **Miroslava Byrns**, *Sloboden Pečat, North Macedonia*

Moderator: **Elvira Jukić-Mujkić**, *Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia*

15:20 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 16:30 ***Confronting hate speech***

Keynote: **Federico Faloppa**, *University of Reading, United Kingdom*

Panelists:

- **Vesna Alaburić**, *Lawyer, Croatia*
- **Helena Mandić**, *Communications Regulatory Agency, Bosnia*

Moderator: **Saša Leković**, *Fažana Media Fest, Croatia*