

Hate and Propaganda Media and Narratives in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Many examples of media and communication that spread disinformation, propaganda and hate speech exist in BiH, including traditional and new media.



Regulatory and self-regulatory frameworks and legal mechanism for the prosecution of hate speech, death threats and discrimination exist, but their implementation has been limited.



These are usually sustained through different ownership and financing patterns and are used for the promotion of ethno-national narratives or political agendas, targeting other ethno-national, political or minority groups.



Citizens struggle to identify problematic media content and only some governments at different administrative levels started introducing media and information literacy in primary and secondary education.



The existence of such media can particularly increase tensions among the local population and raise hatred towards others.

Hate narratives in the media and user generated content



The mainstream media in BiH are the sources and disseminators of hate narratives towards specific groups and individuals, which are further popularized through user-generated comments.

Hate narratives against migrants and refugees	Hate narratives against journalists	Hate narratives against the political opposition
* "Migrants and refugees are a threat to the society."	"Journalists are enemies of their own people."	"Political opponents are working against the Government."
** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrants and refugees are a security threat. They are potential terrorists, are dangerous and commit crime. Migrants and refugees are a health threat. They have infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Migrants and refugees are an economic threat, especially during the pandemic. BiH should take care of its unemployed citizens rather than of migrants and refugees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journalists are conformists and would do anything for their careers, even betray their own people and family. Journalists cannot be trusted. Journalists do not speak the truth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political opponents are dangerous, primitive and unstable. They aim to create disorder, destabilize the Government and pave the way for protests. Political opponents are mentally ill. Political opponents are sons of war profiteers. Political opponents did not defend their own people during the war in BiH. Political opponents are mercenaries of foreign countries and organizations.

* Main narrative ** Sub-narratives



These are findings of the research on hate and propaganda models of media and communication in Bosnia and Herzegovina and findings of the research on hate narratives in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted, in 2020, within the project "Resilience – Civil society action to reaffirm media freedom and counter disinformation and hateful propaganda in the Western Balkans and Turkey" in seven countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

